INTO THE SHADOW OF THE SUN

RAEL

COLIN WILSON

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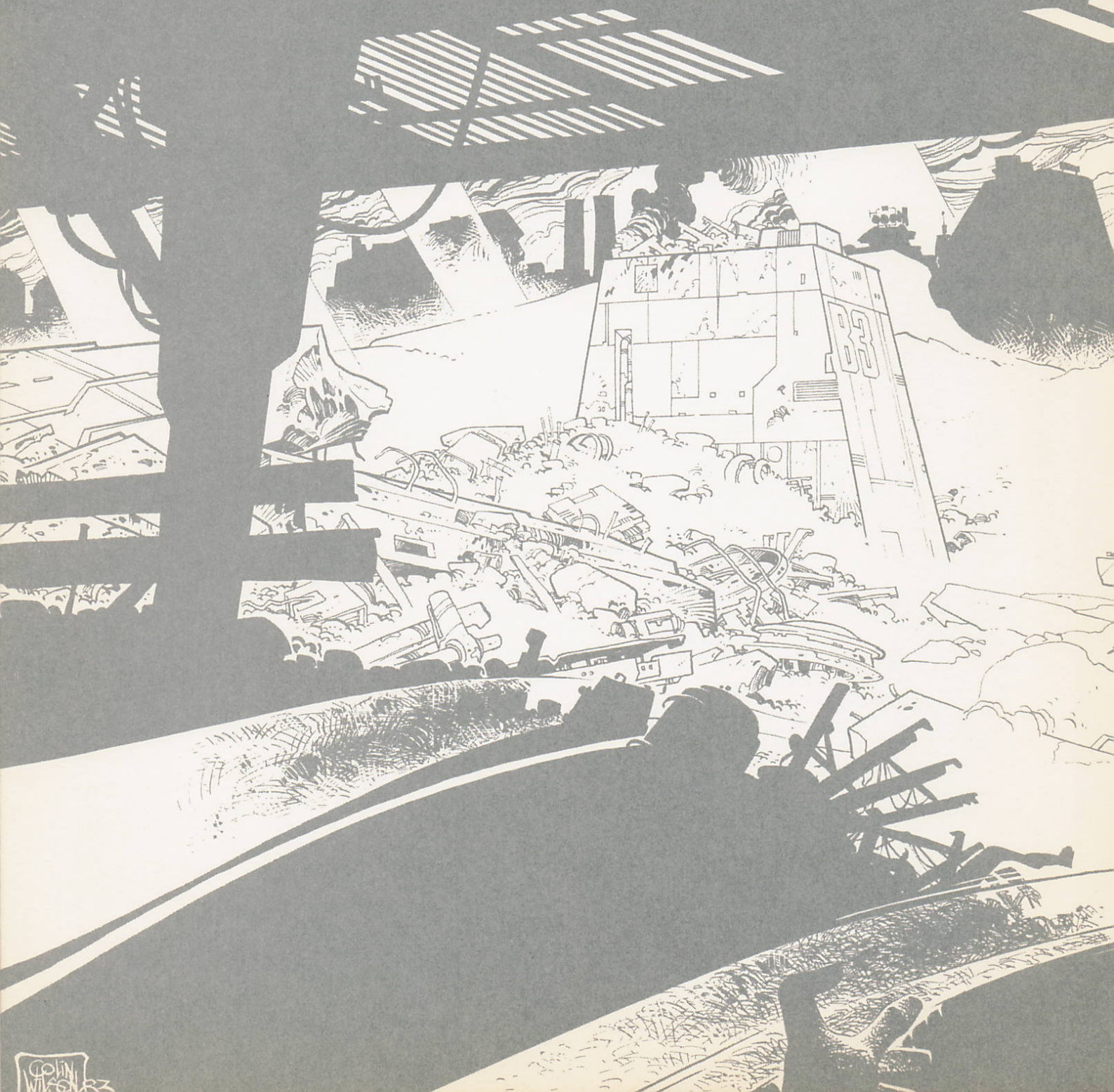

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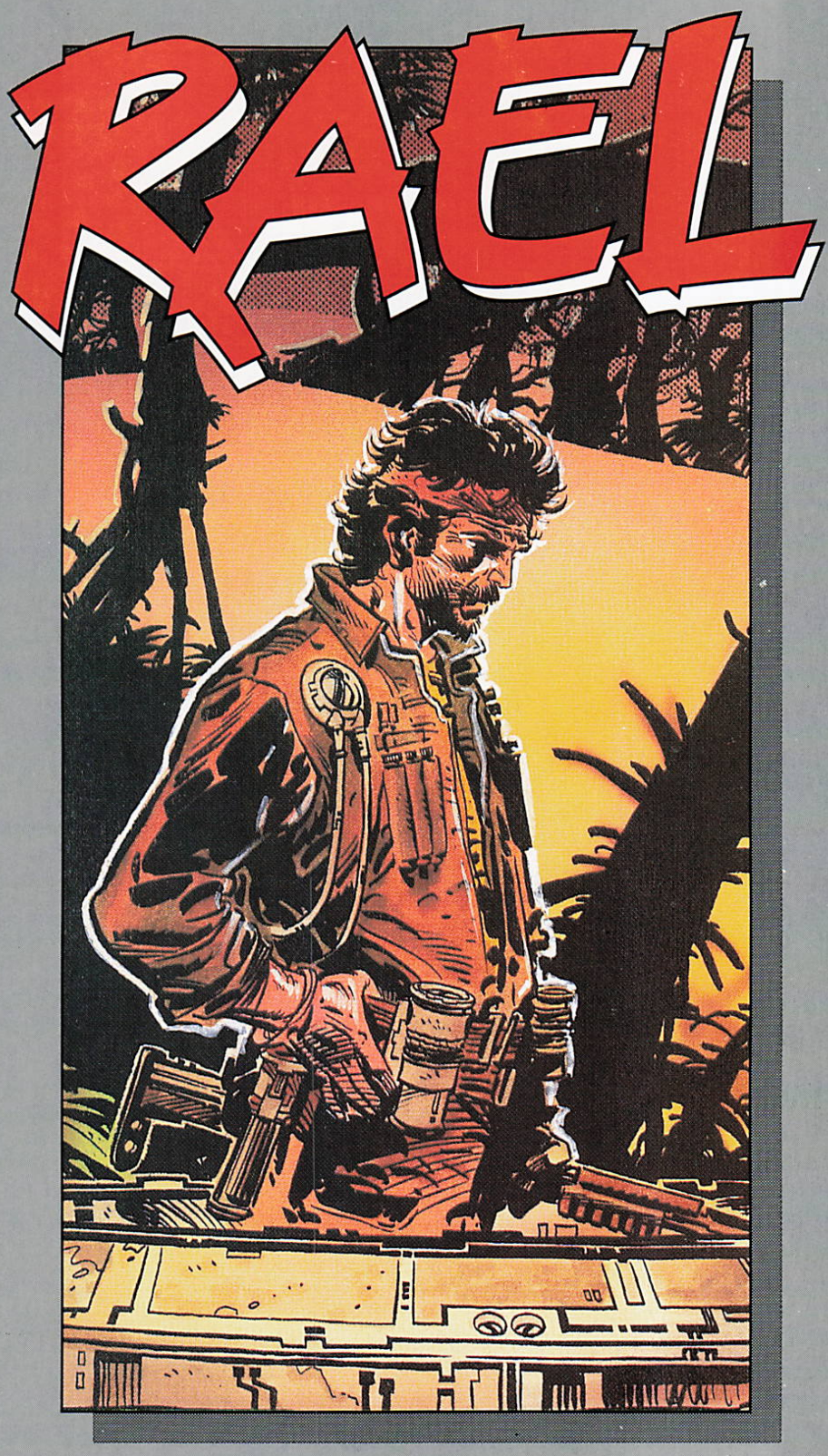

Into the Shadow of the Sun

1. Rael

2. Mantell

3. Alia

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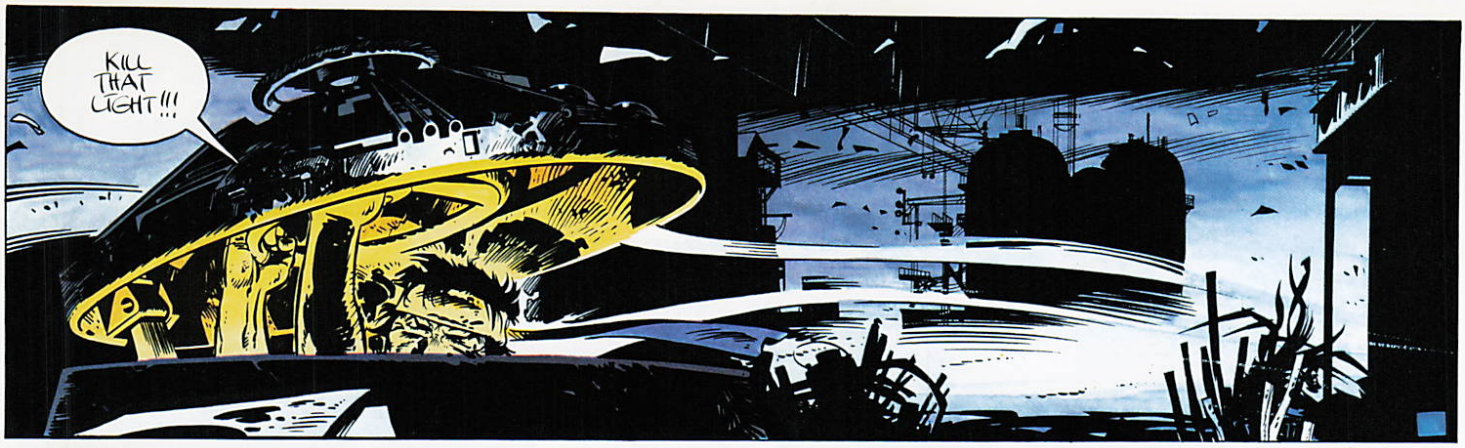
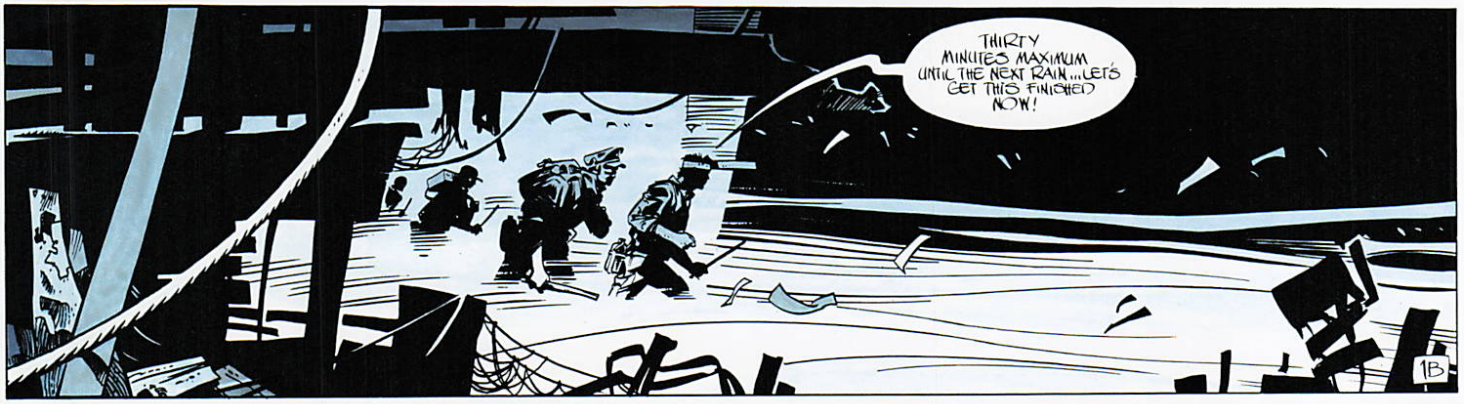
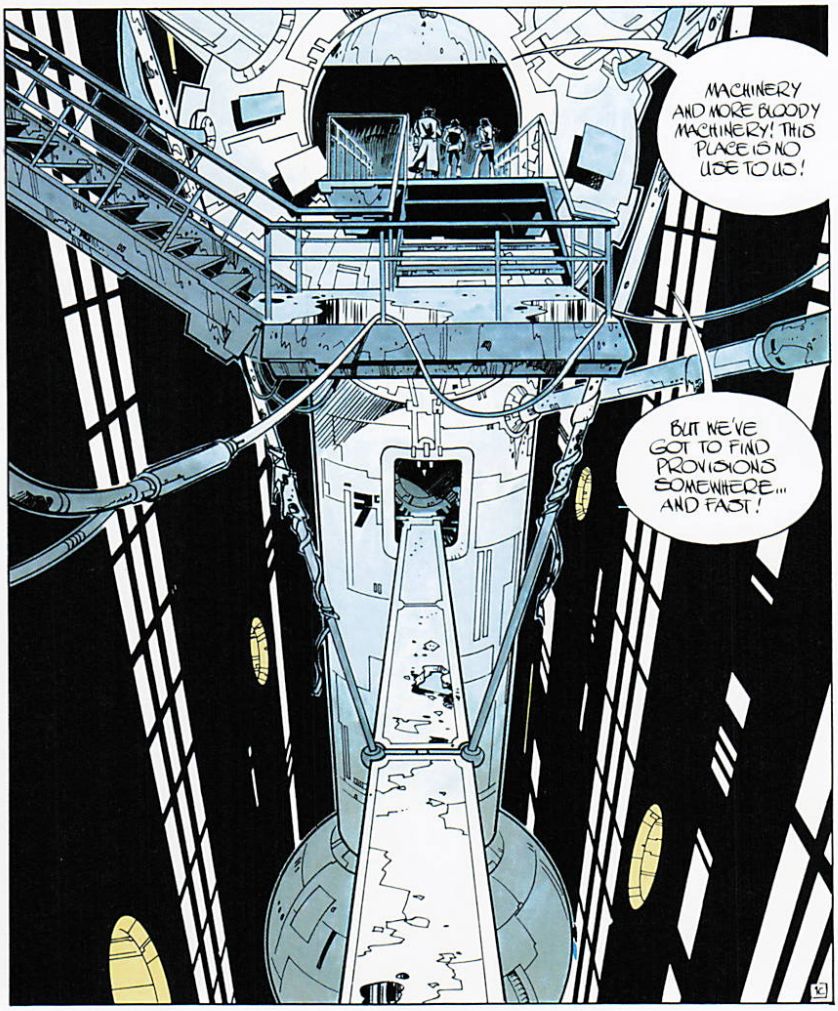

KILL THAT LIGHT!!!


THIRTY MINUTES MAXIMUM UNTIL THE NEXT RAIN...LET'S GET THIS FINISHED NOW!
1B

DAMN! SECTOR 7!!! INDUSTRIAL!
WHO FOULED UP? WE'RE MILES AWAY FROM SECTOR 12!!!
SECTOR-C7
WILL YOU TWO STOP ARGUING AND GET THIS HATCH OPEN!


MACHINERY AND MORE BLOODY MACHINERY! THIS PLACE IS NO USE TO US!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO FIND PROVISIONS SOMEWHERE... AND FAST!

SOME TIME LATER...
IT'S NO USE... THE RAIN WILL START ANY MINUTE NOW!
QUIETLY!!!
BUT IT'S NEARLY OPEN!

CLANG!
DONE IT!!!

"MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE..."
USELESS!!!
?!

NOW THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE USEFUL!!!
2A

SNIC!
HUH?

CLIC!
IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS, GENTLEMEN, TO MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVES!!!
SNIK!
CLIC!
DAMN!

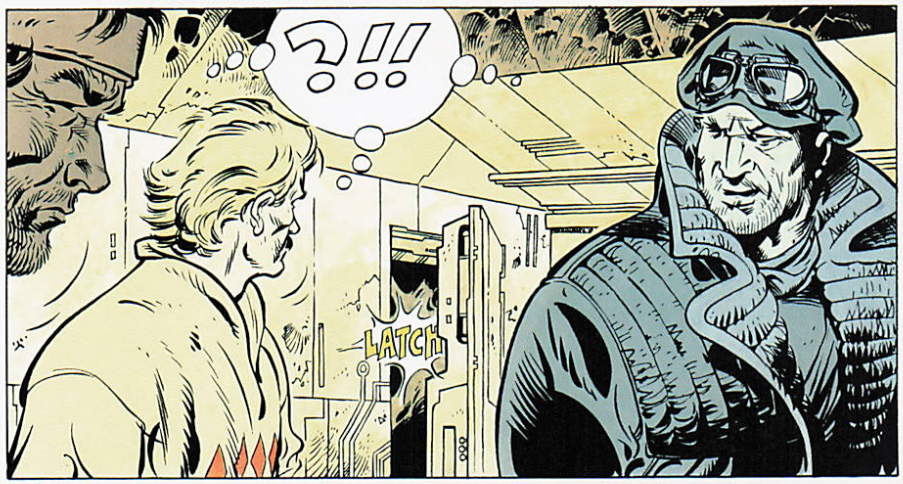
PAW PAW!
2D

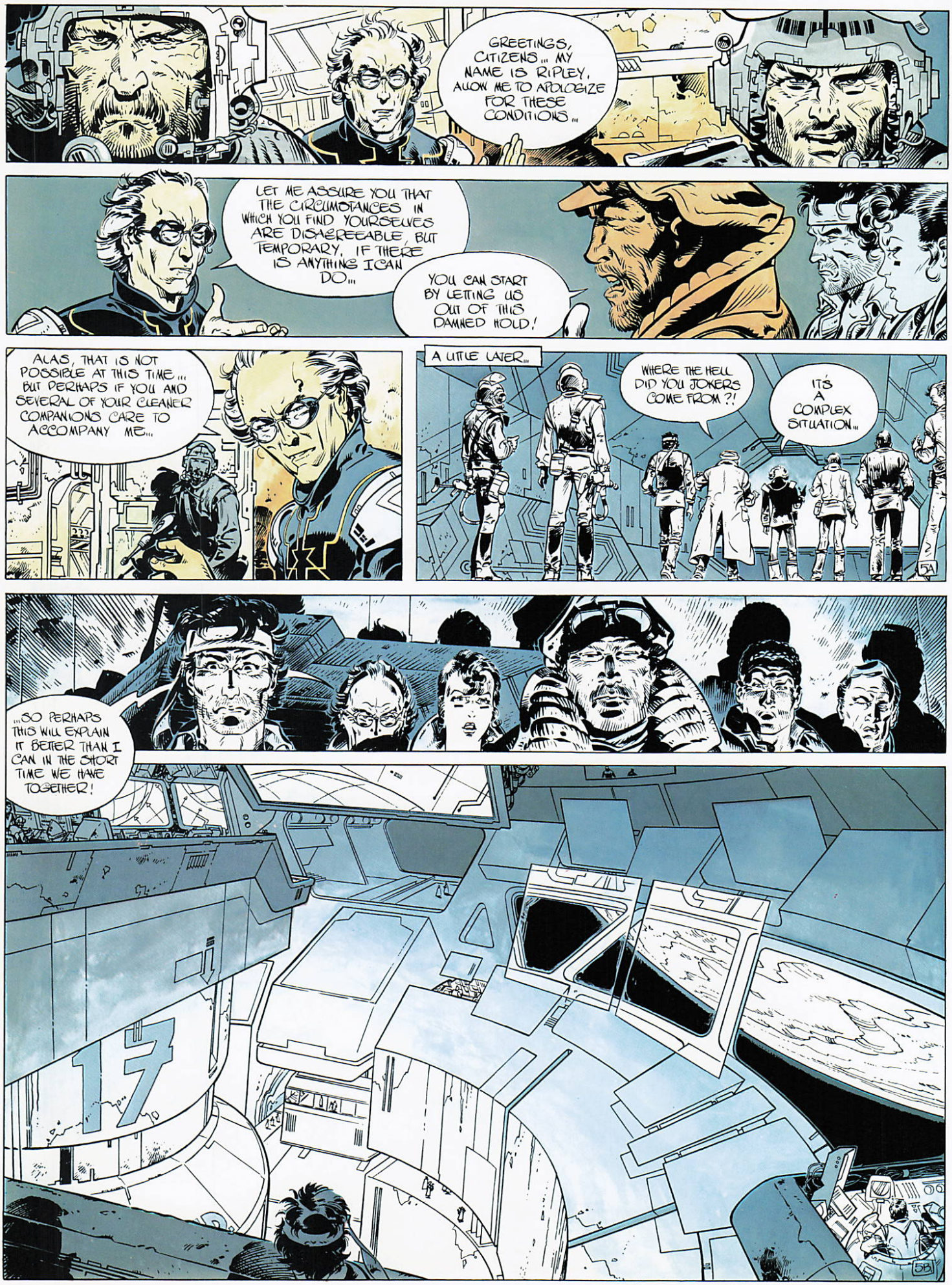
PAW
PAW
PAW
PAW
LUCKY THIS THING WAS LOADED!
THEY'VE GOT ALIA AND MANTELL! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK UNDERGROUND!
BOK!
34
AND SOON...
HE'S COMING AROUND!
38

TAKE IT EASY... YOU'VE HAD QUITE A BEATING!
SHIT... WHO STOOD ON MY HEAD!
WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID WE ALL END UP IN THIS PLACE?
SO THE HERO'S BACK FROM THE UNCONSCIOUS!
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW, MANTELL THINKS WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF CARGO HOLD...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... ANY CLEVER IDEAS NOW, RAEL?
WE'RE COMPLETELY SEALED IN...
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT LOT?
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, EITHER... WE WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE!
ON THE SURFACE?
4A

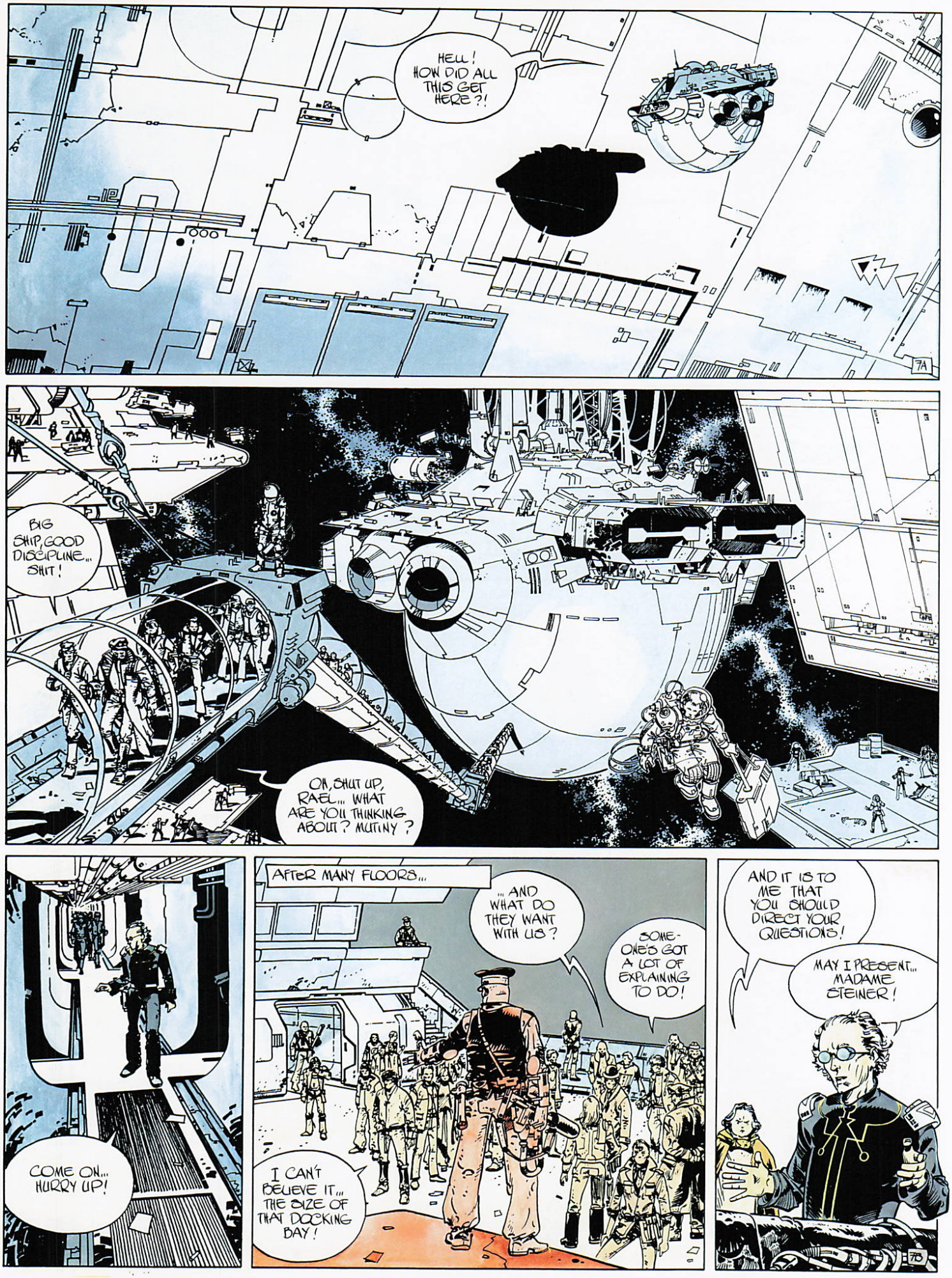
ARE YOU CRAZY? NOBODY GOES TO THE SURFACE WITH THAT ACID RAIN!

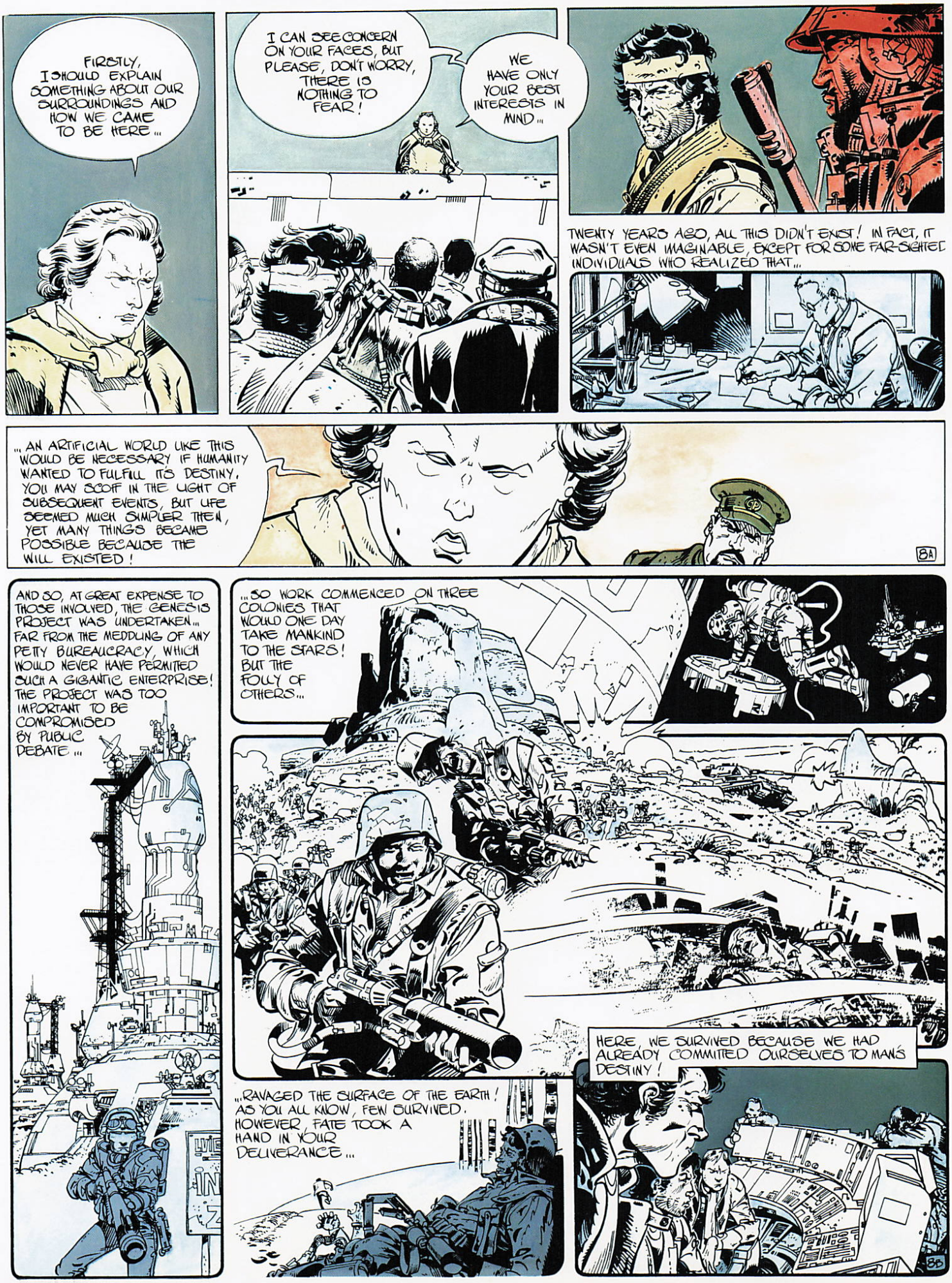
4B

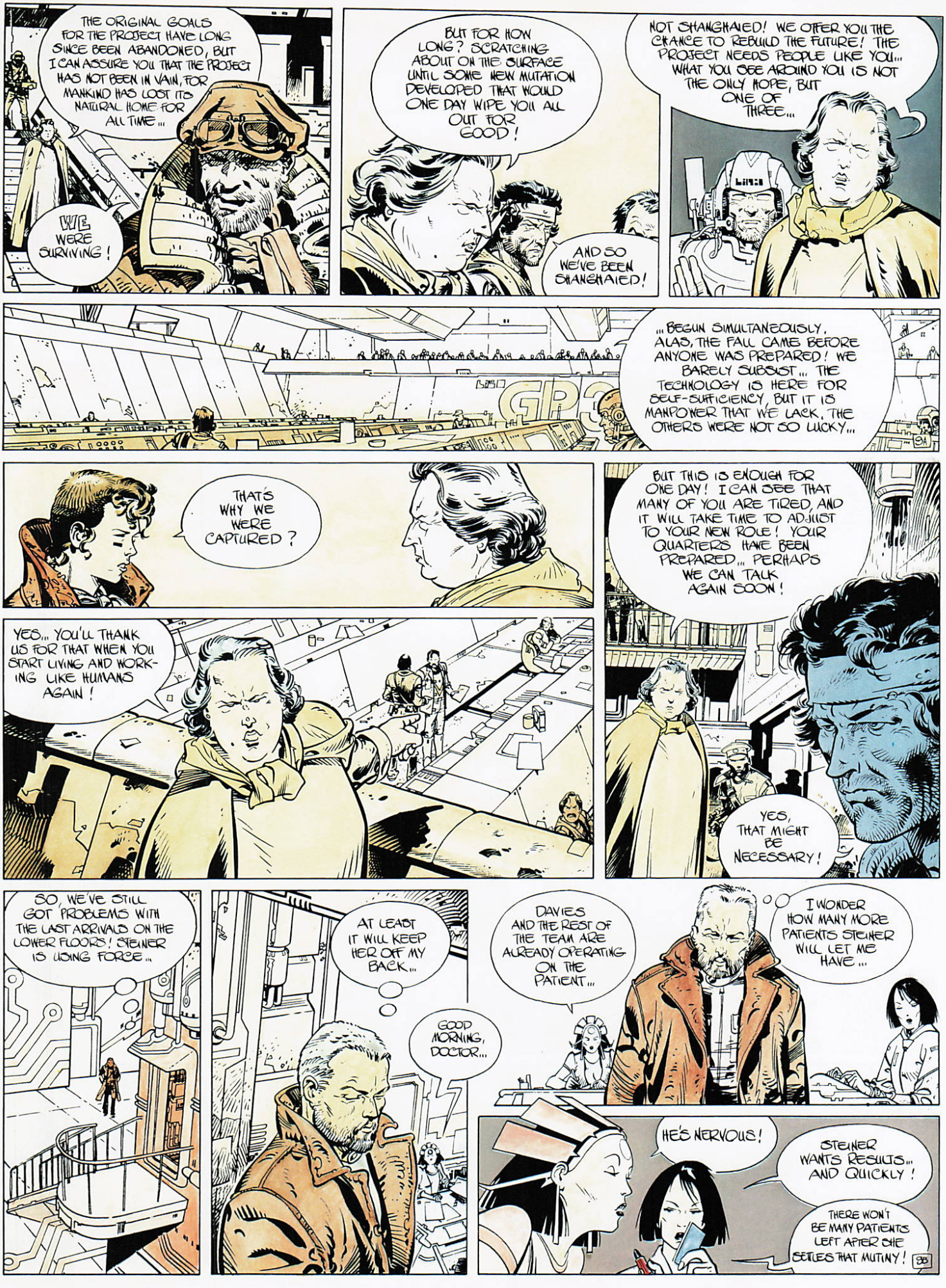

?!!
LATCH

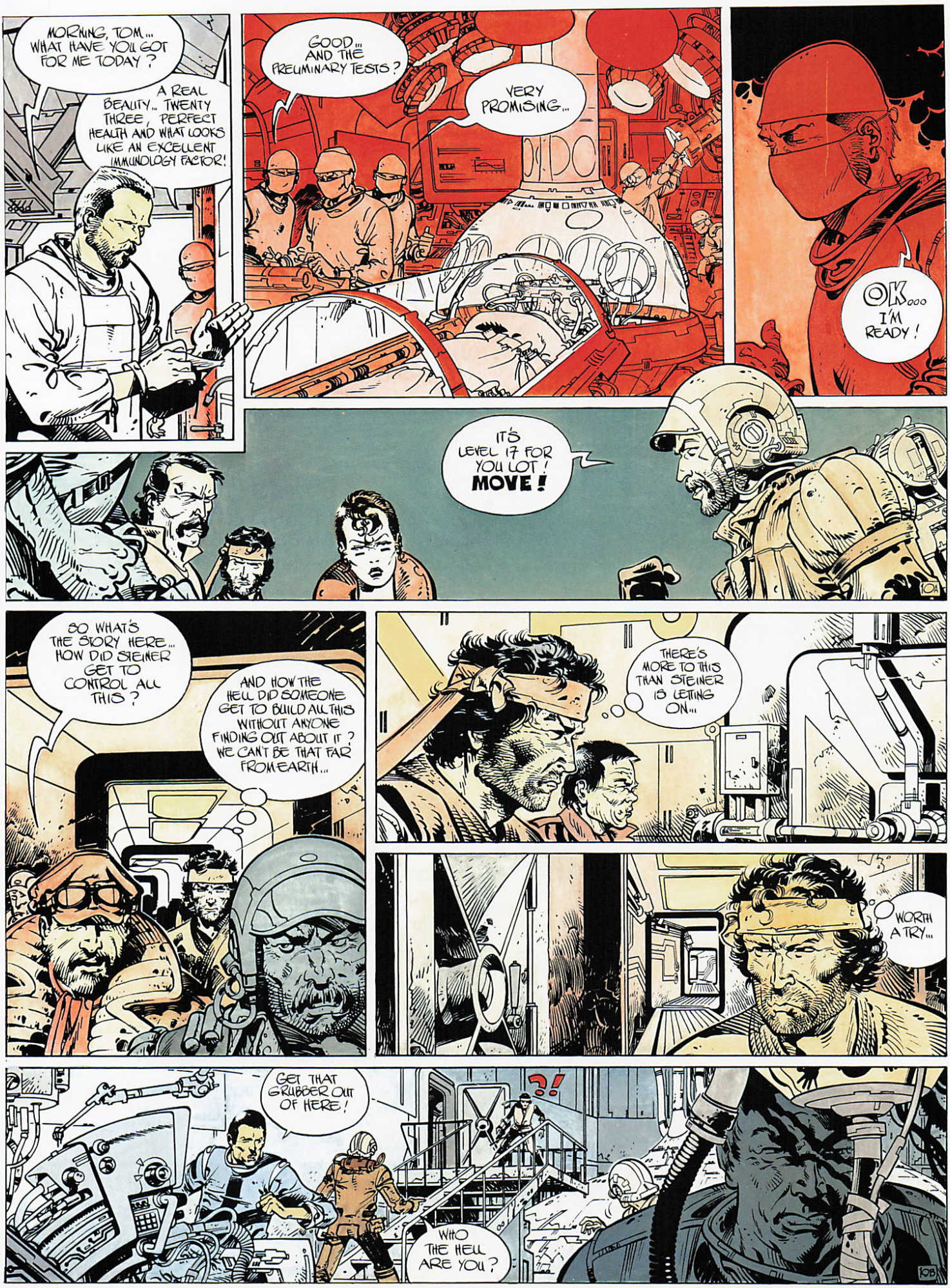

GREETINGS, CITIZENS... MY NAME IS RIPLEY. ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THESE CONDITIONS...
LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH YOU FIND YOURSELVES ARE DISAGREEABLE, BUT TEMPORARY. IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO...
YOU CAN START BY LETTING US OUT OF THIS DAMNED HOLD!
ALAS, THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME... BUT PERHAPS IF YOU AND SEVERAL OF YOUR CLEANER COMPANIONS CARE TO ACCOMPANY ME...
A LITTLE LATER...
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU JOKERS COME FROM?!
IT'S A COMPLEX SITUATION...
...SO PERHAPS THIS WILL EXPLAIN IT BETTER THAN I CAN IN THE SHORT TIME WE HAVE TOGETHER!
17

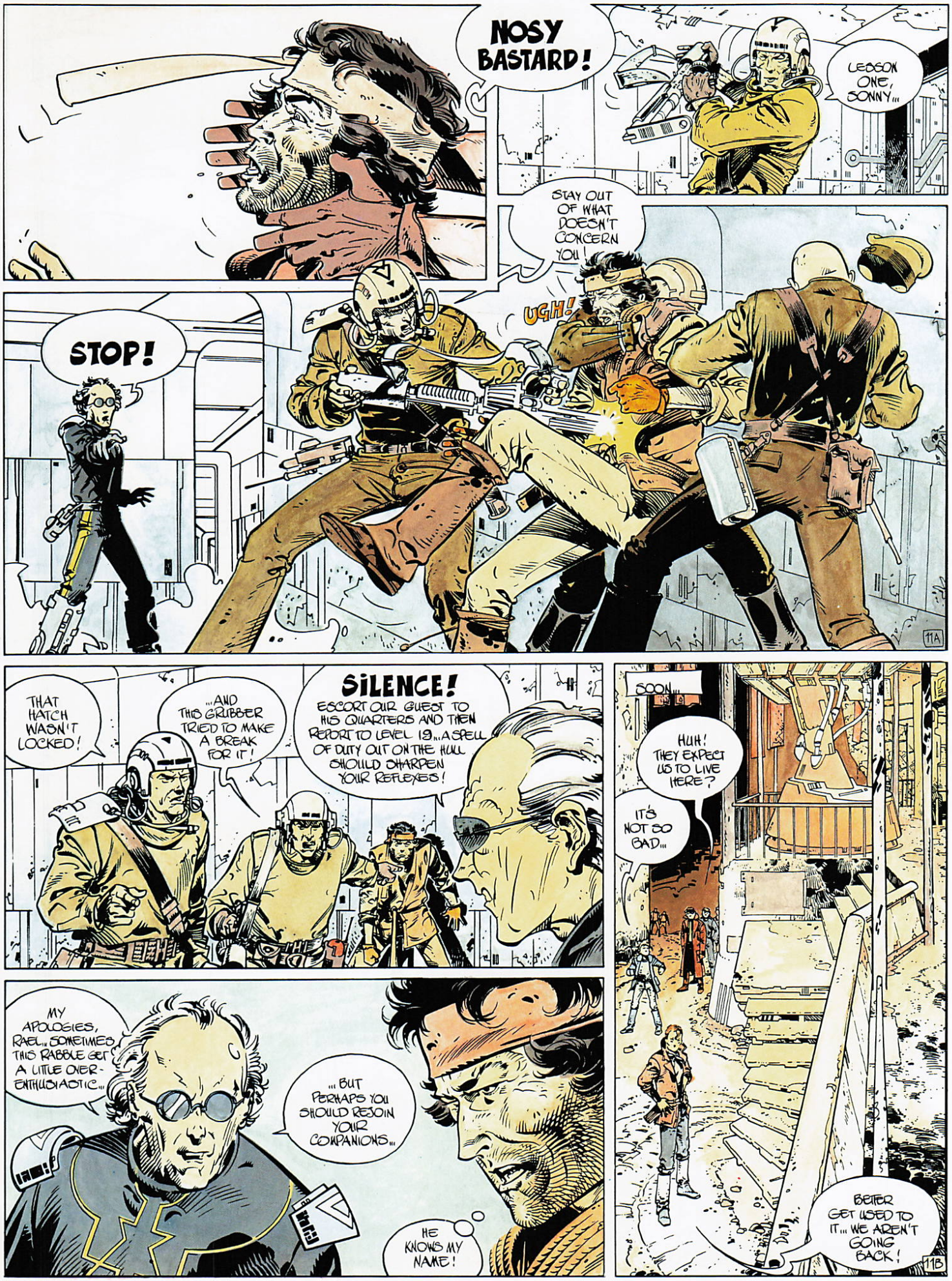
OOOEEEEEOOOOEEEE!!!
WAC!
FOLLOWED BY...
IFM-3
GOOD MORNING, WILLIAM... IT'S ANOTHER LOVELY DAY. WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING TROUBLE WITH...
...THE HUMIDITY LEVELS, BUT THE TEMPERATURE IS 14°C...
WHAT ABOUT THE MUTINY ON LEVEL 15?!
STILL CLASSIFIED, I'M AFRAID...
CURSE IT!
6A
TODAY'S PATIENT HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH PRE-OP...
GET THE TEAM TO SCRUB UP AND TELL THEM I'M ON MY WAY! STEINER WANTS RESULTS ON THIS ONE!
OF COURSE, AND...
GOOD LUCK, DOCTOR!
THANKS, MURIELLE...
?!!
6B


HELL! HOW DID ALL THIS GET HERE?!
7A
BIG SHIP, GOOD DISCIPLINE... SHIT!
OH, SHUT UP, RAEL... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT? MUTINY?
COME ON... HURRY UP!
AFTER MANY FLOORS...
... AND WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH US?
SOMEONES GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THE SIZE OF THAT DOCKING BAY!
AND IT IS TO ME THAT YOU SHOULD DIRECT YOUR QUESTIONS!
MAY I PRESENT... MADAME STEINER!
7B


FIRSTLY, I SHOULD EXPLAIN SOMETHING ABOUT OUR SURROUNDINGS AND HOW WE CAME TO BE HERE...
I CAN SEE CONCERN ON YOUR FACES, BUT PLEASE, DON'T WORRY, THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR!
WE HAVE ONLY YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN MIND...
TWENTY YEARS AGO, ALL THIS DIDN'T EXIST! IN FACT, IT WASN'T EVEN IMAGINABLE, EXCEPT FOR SOME FAR-SIGHTED INDIVIDUALS WHO REALIZED THAT...
...AN ARTIFICIAL WORLD LIKE THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY IF HUMANITY WANTED TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY. YOU MAY SCOFF IN THE LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, BUT LIFE SEEMED MUCH SIMPLER THEN, YET MANY THINGS BECAME POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE WILL EXISTED!
8A
AND SO, AT GREAT EXPENSE TO THOSE INVOLVED, THE GENESIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN... FAR FROM THE MEDDLING OF ANY PETTY BUREAUCRACY, WHICH WOULD NEVER HAVE PERMITTED SUCH A GIGANTIC ENTERPRISE! THE PROJECT WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE COMPROMISED BY PUBLIC DEBATE...
...SO WORK COMMENCED ON THREE COLONIES THAT WOULD ONE DAY TAKE MANKIND TO THE STARS! BUT THE FOLLY OF OTHERS...
...RAVAGED THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH! AS YOU ALL KNOW, FEW SURVIVED. HOWEVER, FATE TOOK A HAND IN YOUR DELIVERANCE...
HERE, WE SURVIVED BECAUSE WE HAD ALREADY COMMITTED OURSELVES TO MAN'S DESTINY!
8B


THE ORIGINAL GOALS FOR THE PROJECT HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN ABANDONED, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE PROJECT HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN, FOR MANKIND HAS LOST ITS NATURAL HOME FOR ALL TIME...
WE WERE SURVIVING!
BUT FOR HOW LONG? SCRATCHING ABOUT ON THE SURFACE UNTIL SOME NEW MUTATION DEVELOPED THAT WOULD ONE DAY WIPE YOU ALL OUT FOR GOOD!
AND SO WE'VE BEEN SHANGHAIED!
NOT SHANGHAIED! WE OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO REBUILD THE FUTURE! THE PROJECT NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU... WHAT YOU SEE AROUND YOU IS NOT THE ONLY HOPE, BUT ONE OF THREE...
...BEGUN SIMULTANEOUSLY. ALAS, THE FALL CAME BEFORE ANYONE WAS PREPARED! WE BARELY SUBSIST... THE TECHNOLOGY IS HERE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY, BUT IT IS MANPOWER THAT WE LACK. THE OTHERS WERE NOT SO LUCKY...
THAT'S WHY WE WERE CAPTURED?
BUT THIS IS ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY! I CAN SEE THAT MANY OF YOU ARE TIRED, AND IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ADJUST TO YOUR NEW ROLE! YOUR QUARTERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED... PERHAPS WE CAN TALK AGAIN SOON!
YES... YOU'LL THANK US FOR THAT WHEN YOU START LIVING AND WORKING LIKE HUMANS AGAIN!
YES, THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY!
SO, WE'VE STILL GOT PROBLEMS WITH THE LAST ARRIVALS ON THE LOWER FLOORS! STEINER IS USING FORCE...
AT LEAST IT WILL KEEP HER OFF MY BACK...
GOOD MORNING, DOCTOR...
DAVIES AND THE REST OF THE TEAM ARE ALREADY OPERATING ON THE PATIENT...
I WONDER HOW MANY MORE PATIENTS STEINER WILL LET ME HAVE...
HE'S NERVOUS!
STEINER WANTS RESULTS... AND QUICKLY!
THERE WON'T BE MANY PATIENTS LEFT AFTER SHE SETTLES THAT MUTINY!
38


MORNING, TOM... WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME TODAY ?
A REAL BEAUTY... TWENTY THREE, PERFECT HEALTH AND WHAT LOOKS LIKE AN EXCELLENT IMMUNOLOGY FACTOR!
GOOD... AND THE PRELIMINARY TESTS ?
VERY PROMISING...
OK... I'M READY !
IT'S LEVEL 17 FOR YOU LOT ! MOVE !
SO WHAT'S THE STORY HERE... HOW DID STEINER GET TO CONTROL ALL THIS ?
AND HOW THE HELL DID SOMEONE GET TO BUILD ALL THIS WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT ABOUT IT ? WE CAN'T BE THAT FAR FROM EARTH...
THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN STEINER IS LETTING ON...
WORTH A TRY...
GET THAT GRUBBER OUT OF HERE !
?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?


NOSY BASTARD!
LESSON ONE, SONNY...
STAY OUT OF WHAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
UGH!
STOP!
11A
THAT HATCH WASN'T LOCKED!
...AND THIS GRUBBER TRIED TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
SILENCE!
ESCORT OUR GUEST TO HIS QUARTERS AND THEN REPORT TO LEVEL 19... A SPELL OF DUTY OUT ON THE HULL SHOULD SHARPEN YOUR REFLEXES!
SOON...
HUH! THEY EXPECT US TO LIVE HERE?
IT'S NOT SO BAD...
BETTER GET USED TO IT... WE AREN'T GOING BACK!
11B
MY APOLOGIES, RAEL... SOMETIMES THIS RABBLE GET A LITTLE OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC...
...BUT PERHAPS YOU SHOULD REJOIN YOUR COMPANIONS...
HE KNOWS MY NAME!

LET'S FACE IT, STEINER DIDN'T BRING US UP HERE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE FURNISHINGS! IF EVEN HALF THAT SPEECH OF HERS WAS TRUE, THEN WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH CHOICE!
WHAT?!
... NOW WE ARE STUCK IN THIS SHIT HOLE FOR THE DURATION! RAEL'S THINKING ABOUT MUTINY... IT'S A CRAZY IDEA! WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THIS PLACE YET!
MORE BRIGHT IDEAS, RAEL?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE TOO INQUISITIVE AROUND HERE
12A
WE'RE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT SOMETHING, I FOUND A LABORATORY... IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE PREPARING SOME SORT OF EXPERIMENT!
YEAH! UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ARE COMING CHEAP LATELY!
WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING, I WASN'T MEANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT!
I SUGGEST WE DO SOMETHING! WE NEED TO TALK TO STEINER!
DAMN THAT MEDDLING BASTARD!
12B

THIS LOT IS GOING TO BE MORE TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT! IT'S TIME FOR THEIR SECOND LESSON!
I'LL GET A SQUAD ORGANIZED IMMEDIATELY!
SOON...
TELL CANARIS TO GET HIS TEAM TOGETHER, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY WITH THE TESTS!
IS IT WISE TO BEGIN THE PROGRAMME SO SOON? LIFE ON EARTH DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE TAMED THEM MUCH...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT! CANARIS HAS GOT TO HAVE MATERIAL TO WORK WITH... AND I WANT RESULTS!
WHEN WE LAST SPOKE, PERHAPS I DID NOT COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE TRUE PREDICAMENT IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES...
NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN A LITTLE OF OUR PROJECT, I MUST TELL YOU THAT WE ARE DESPERATELY SHORT OF MANPOWER... WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
FORCED LABOR!!
BLOODY CONSCRIPTION!
TRUST ME! THIS IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF US ALL... WE CANNOT ABANDON THE PROJECT... YOU WILL BE OUR STRENGTH!
IN OTHER WORDS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
STRENGTH THROUGH SLAVERY?!
TRY TO UNDERSTAND...
TRY TO UNDERSTAND... WE DID NOT PLAN IT THIS WAY! NOWHERE IS SAFE! THE MUTATIONS THAT DEVASTATED EARTH HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR AMONGST US!
BUT WE ARE IMMUNE!

TAKE THAT ONE... I WANT CANARIS TO START WITH HIM!
TCHAC!
OUT OF THE WAY!
WHERE IS HE?
MOVE!
NOT SO FAST!
URK!
PAN!
14A
MY GOD... THEY'VE KILLED HIM!
GET THE BASTARDS!
GET MORE GUARDS AND SORT THIS OUT... QUICKLY! BUT NO KILLING!
UNDERSTOOD!
PAN!
14D

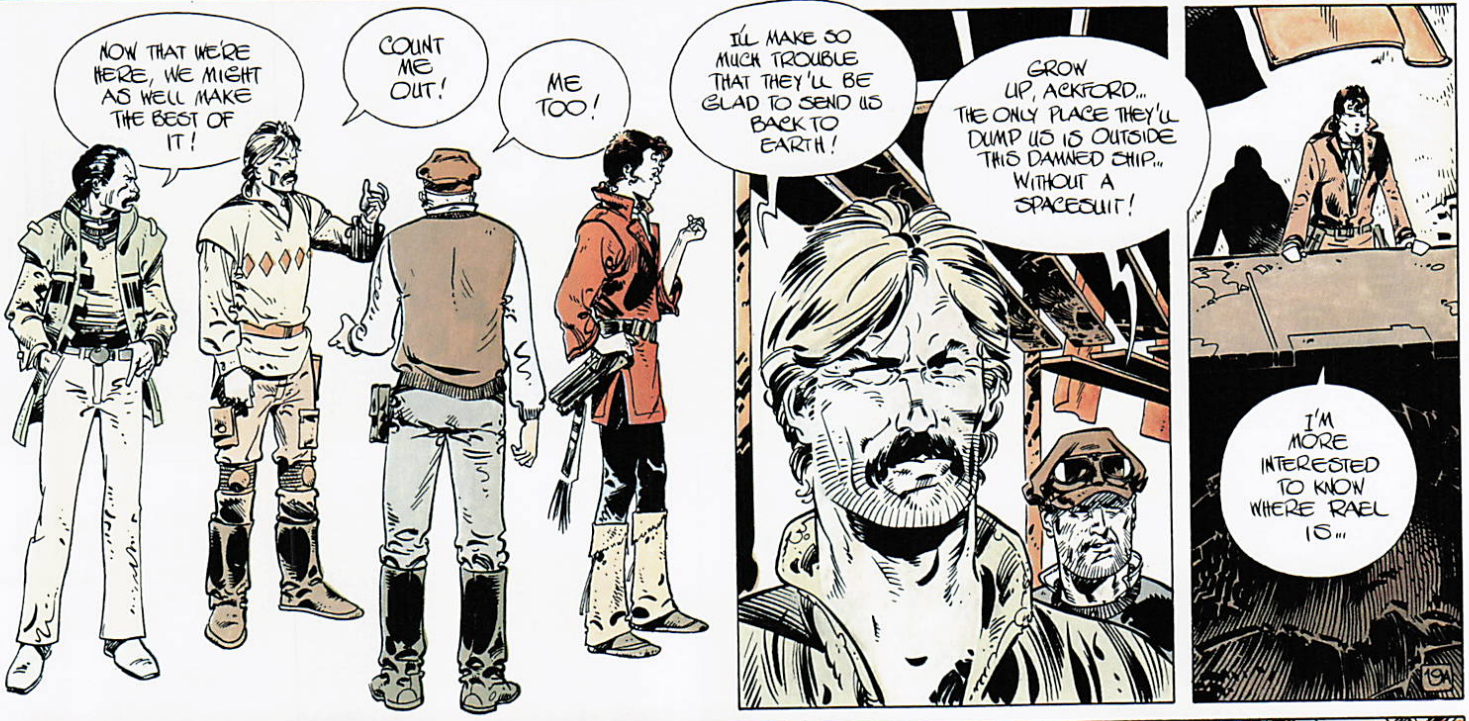
GLANG!
PAN!
IN THE QUIET THAT FOLLOWS...
YOU WILL LEARN THAT RESISTANCE IS USELESS! LET THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING... YOU WILL WORK!
BITCH!
FOUR GUARDS INJURED... ONE SUBJECT SHOT DEAD... AND ONE GUARD KILLED OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND. IT APPEARS THAT OUR FRIEND RAEL HAS ESCAPED...
ALERT ALL LEVELS... I WANT HIM CAUGHT IMMEDIATELY!
151
AT LAST... THE END OF THE TUNNEL!
DAMN... UP, OR DOWN?!
150

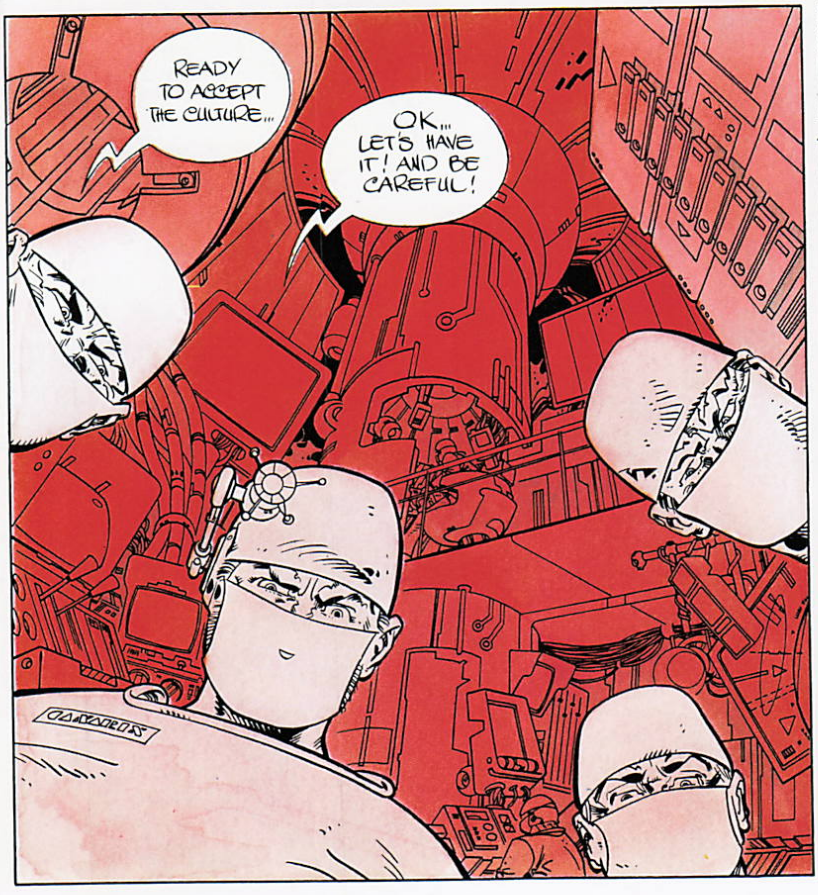
SNIC
!
PAN!
PAN!
PAN!
SLAM!
PAN!
PAN!
DAMN
DAMN
DAMN!
HE'S JAMMED THE HATCH! IT WILL TAKE HOURS!
SUBJECT LOCATED ON LEVEL 17! HE'S ENTERED A VENTILATION SHAFT!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
HE'S GOT TOVEY!
LATER...
GOT TO KEEP MOVING...

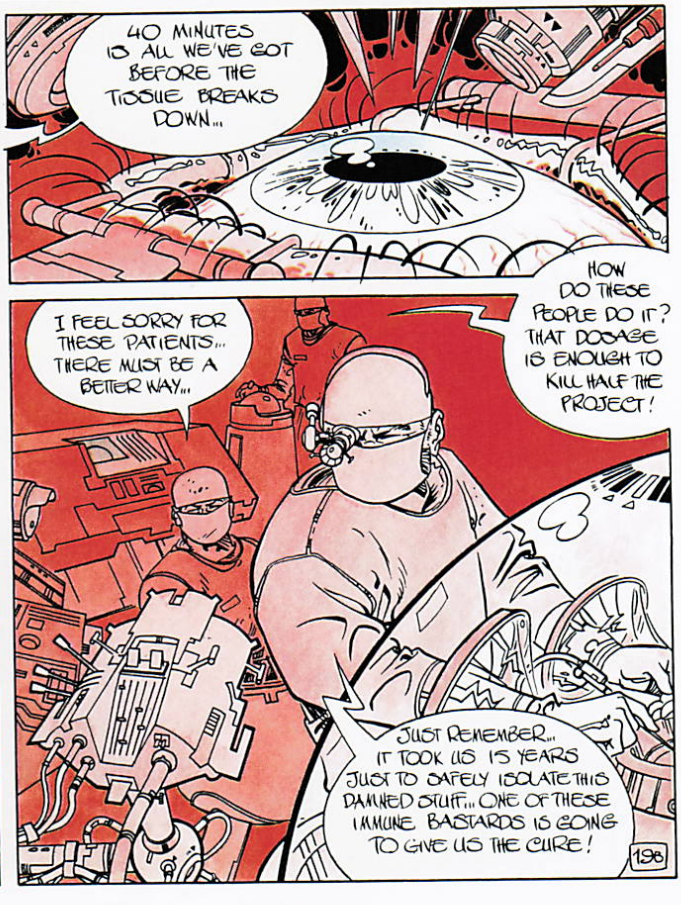
BUT WHERE TO?
... AND TO WHAT?
A FEW HOURS LATER...
NO ONE'S BEEN INTO THIS SECTOR FOR YEARS... AT LEAST I'VE LOST THOSE GOONS!
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
11A
LET'S HOPE WE HAVE MORE LUCK WITH THIS ONE...
SEAL THE THEATRE...
DAMN! EMERGENCY GENERATORS!
COMING ON...
SORRY, DOCTOR... POWER FAILURE ON THREE LEVELS!
THEN WE STAY WITH THE BACKUP SYSTEM...
CHRIST! MUST BE THOSE GUYS FROM EARTH AGAIN!
STEINER WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING AT LEAST... THIS PLACE IS NO LONGER CLEAN...
11B

GOT TO GET THIS TREATED SOON... DAMN THAT GUARD!
WON'T FIND HELP HERE... I'LL BLEED TO DEATH!
?!
GLANG!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE DROPPED IT... CONCENTRATE... I MUST THINK CLEARLY!
HELP! PLEASE HELP ME!
QUIETLY! NO NEED TO SHOUT... I CAN HEAR YOU...

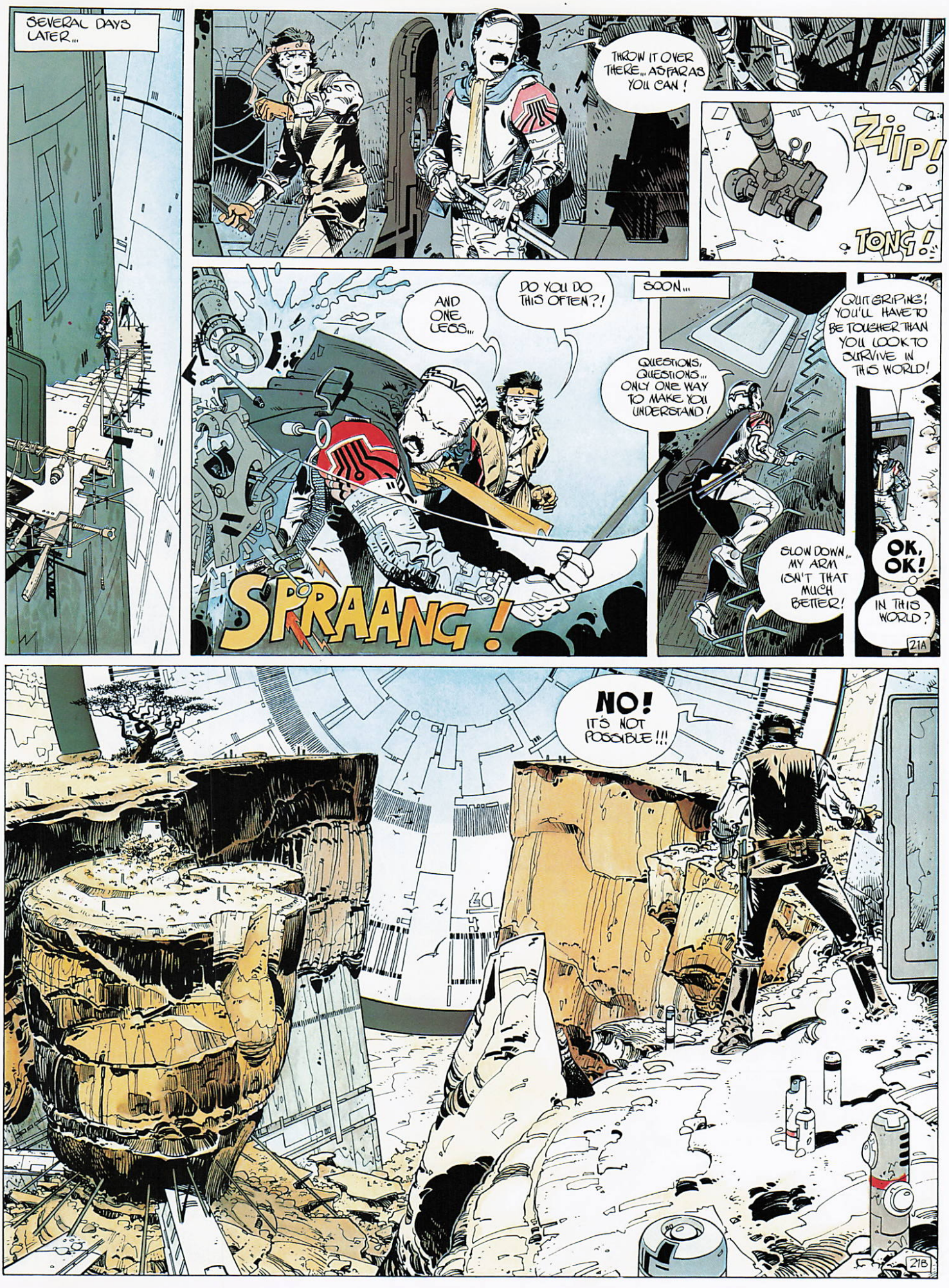
SO THAT'S IT THEN, WE GO TO WORK!
NOT ME! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!


NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
COUNT ME OUT!
ME TOO!
I'LL MAKE SO MUCH TROUBLE THAT THEY'LL BE GLAD TO SEND US BACK TO EARTH!
GROW UP, ACKFORD... THE ONLY PLACE THEY'LL DUMP US IS OUTSIDE THIS DAMNED SHIP... WITHOUT A SPACESUIT!
I'M MORE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHERE RAEL IS...
194

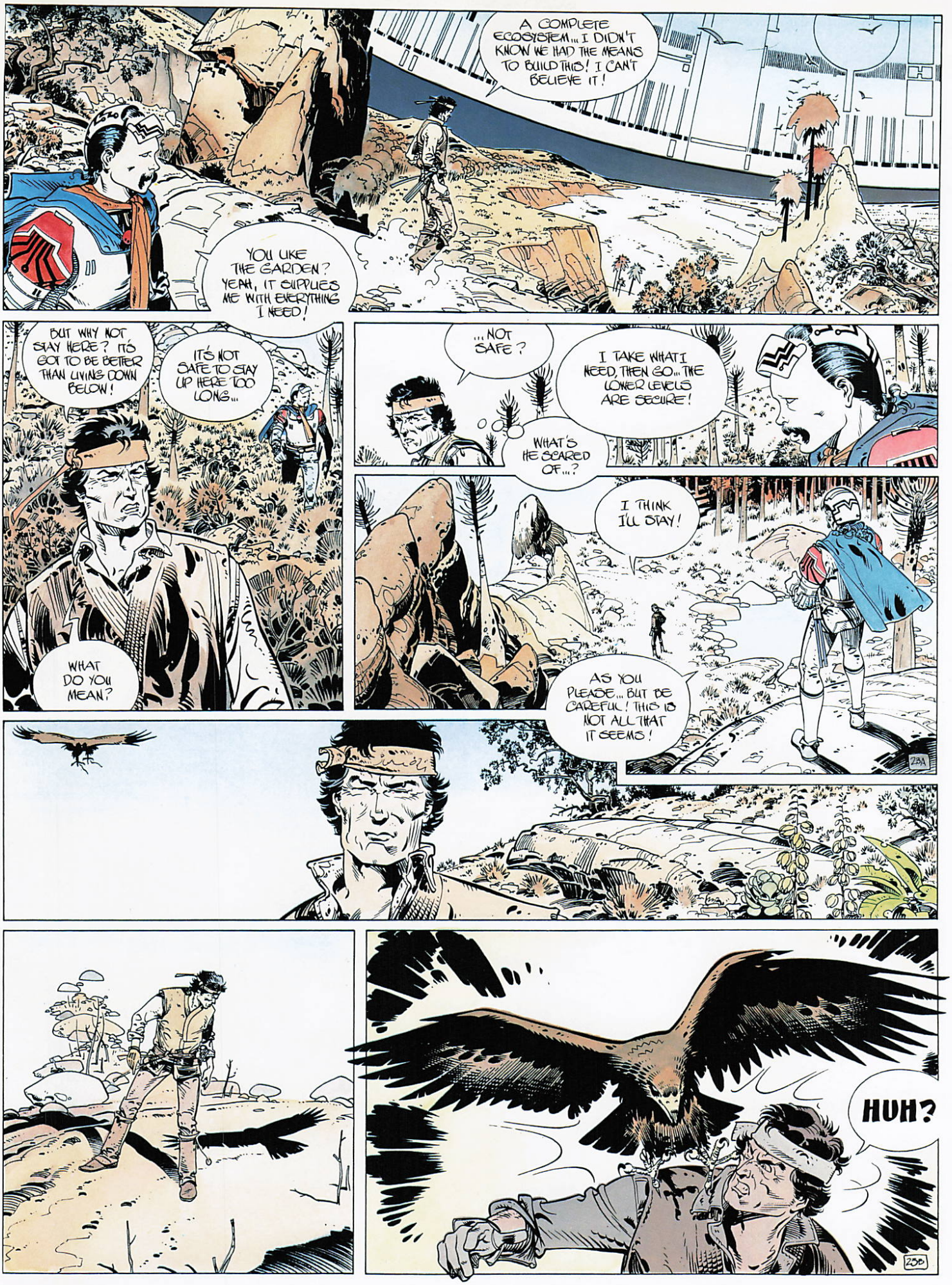

READY TO ACCEPT THE CULTURE...
OK... LET'S HAVE IT! AND BE CAREFUL!

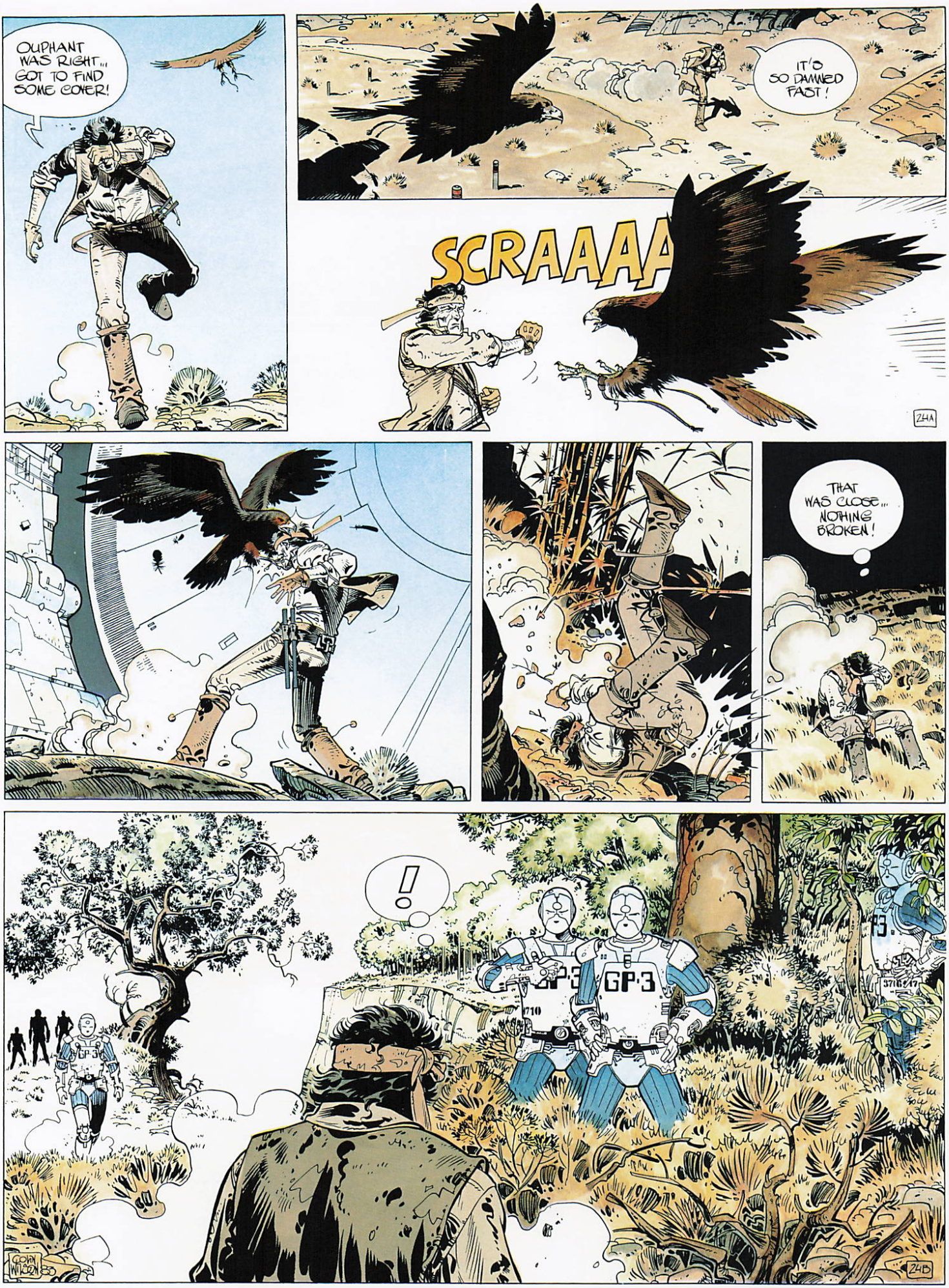

40 MINUTES IS ALL WE'VE GOT BEFORE THE TISSUE BREAKS DOWN...
I FEEL SORRY FOR THESE PATIENTS... THERE MUST BE A BETTER WAY...
HOW DO THESE PEOPLE DO IT? THAT DOSAGE IS ENOUGH TO KILL HALF THE PROJECT!
JUST REMEMBER... IT TOOK US 15 YEARS JUST TO SAFELY ISOLATE THIS DAMNED STUFF... ONE OF THESE IMMUNE BASTARDS IS GOING TO GIVE US THE CURE!
196

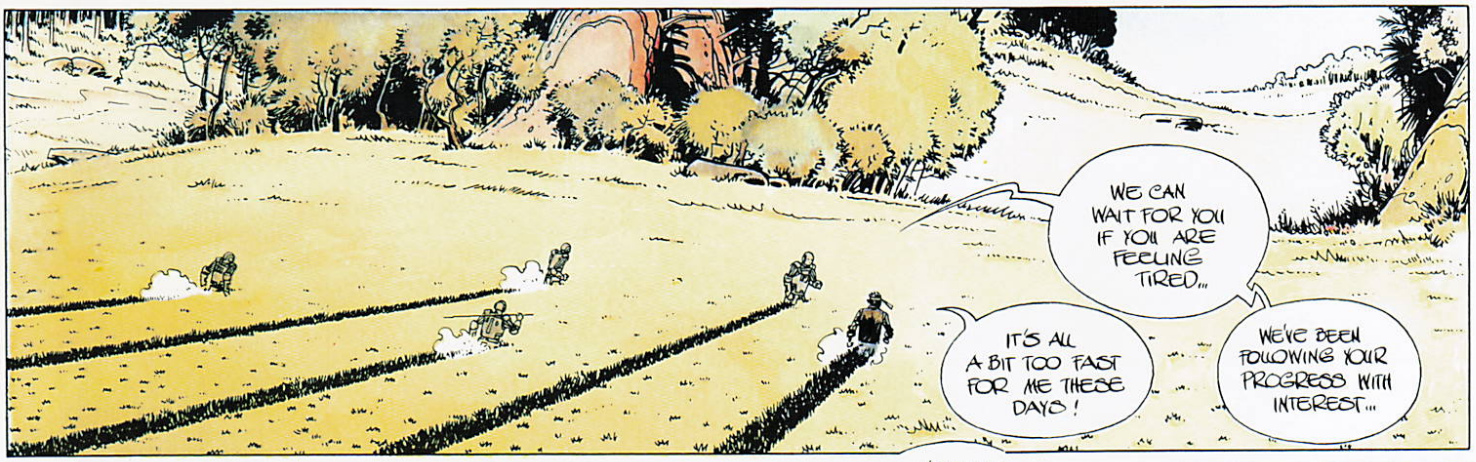
SO TIRED...
TAKE IT EASY, FELLA... YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD...
201
SO STEINER IS STILL TRYING...
...AND AFTER LEVEL 6 IT WAS EASY... I RIGGED UP A SLING AND DRAGGED YOU HERE!
HERE?.. JUST WHERE EXACTLY IS "HERE"?
"HERE" IS HOME! "HERE" NO ONE BOTHERS ME, IN FACT YOU ARE THE FIRST HUMAN I'VE SEEN IN MONTHS! HELL... MAYBE EVEN YEARS! I'VE SORT OF LOST COUNT AROUND HERE...
WHAT ABOUT STEINER AND THE PROJECT?
WHAT ABOUT IT?! I'M NOT IN THE LEAST INTERESTED IN STEINER AND THE PROJECT!
BUT... I MEAN... HOW WAS ALL OF THIS BUILT?
WHO CARES! ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT I'M UP HERE AND NOT DOWN THERE!
THOSE IDIOTS CAN DO AS THEY LIKE AS LONG AS THEY DON'T BOTHER ME!
HOW DO YOU SURVIVE ALL ALONE?
AHHH... AT LAST A REALLY INTERESTING QUESTION! COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU...
208

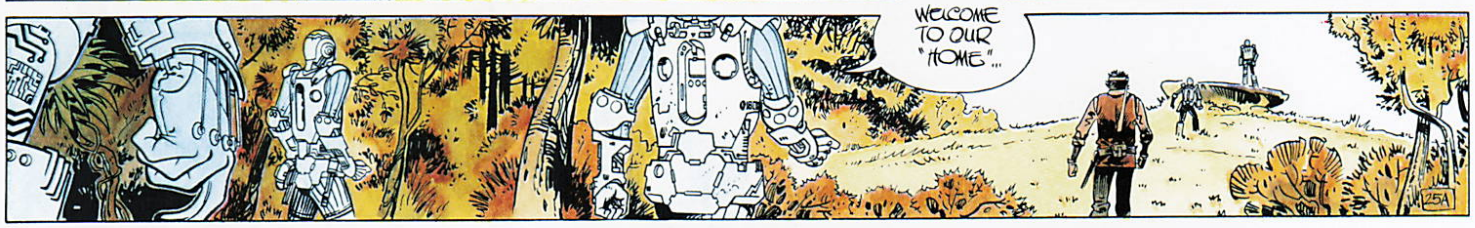

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
THROW IT OVER THERE... AS FAR AS YOU CAN!
ZIP!
TONG!
AND ONE LESS...
DO YOU DO THIS OFTEN?!
SPRAANG!
SOON...
QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS... ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND!
QUIT GRIPING! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE TOUGHER THAN YOU LOOK TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD!
SLOW DOWN, MY ARM ISN'T THAT MUCH BETTER!
OK, OK!
IN THIS WORLD?
21A
NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!!
21B

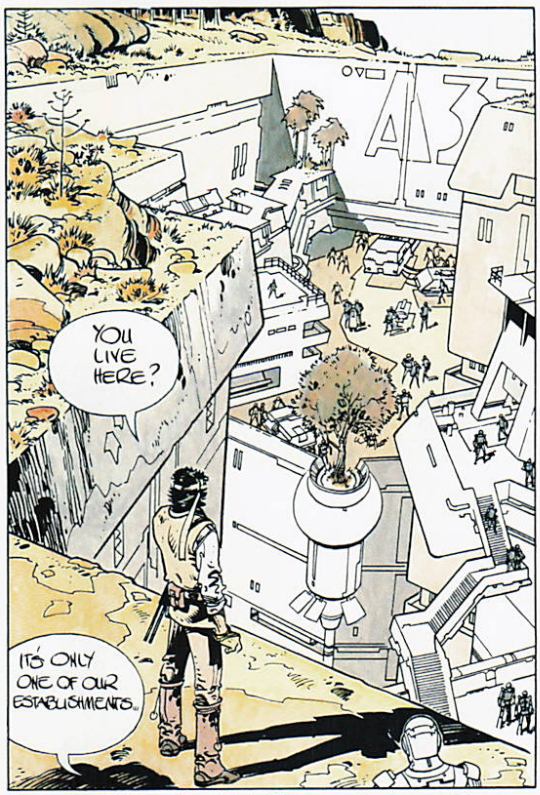
THINGS COULD GET A LOT WORSE IF WE DON'T DO WHAT STEINER WANTS...
ARE YOU MAD?
OUR SITUATION ISN'T TOO BRIGHT, BUT WE LOSE EVERYTHING IF WE GIVE IN TO THAT WOMAN!
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
WE COULD MAKE A BREAK FOR IT...
LIKE RAEL? WHERE DID THAT GET HIM?
22A
NO ONE MOVE!
?
THAT WAS DAYS AGO... CHRIST! WHAT DO THEY WANT?
THAT ONE
DO SOME-THING!
No!
HELP!
22B


A COMPLETE ECOSYSTEM... I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD THE MEANS TO BUILD THIS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU LIKE THE GARDEN? YEAH, IT SUPPLIES ME WITH EVERYTHING I NEED!
BUT WHY NOT STAY HERE? IT'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN LIVING DOWN BELOW!
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY UP HERE TOO LONG...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...NOT SAFE?
I TAKE WHAT I NEED, THEN GO... THE LOWER LEVELS ARE SECURE!
WHAT'S HE SCARED OF...?
I THINK I'LL STAY!
AS YOU PLEASE... BUT BE CAREFUL! THIS IS NOT ALL THAT IT SEEMS!
23A
HUH?
23B

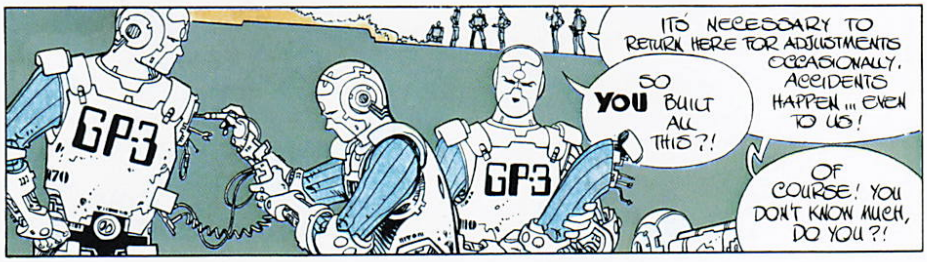

OUPHANT WAS RIGHT... GOT TO FIND SOME COVER!
IT'S SO DAMNED FAST!
SCRAAAA
24A
THAT WAS CLOSE... NOTHING BROKEN!
!
GP-3
24B

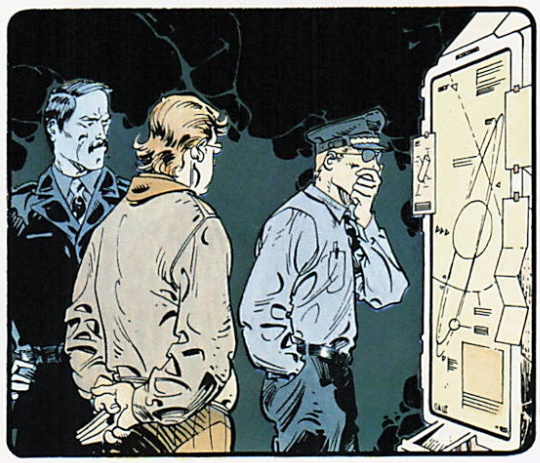

WE CAN WAIT FOR YOU IF YOU ARE FEELING TIRED...
IT'S ALL A BIT TOO FAST FOR ME THESE DAYS!
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR PROGRESS WITH INTEREST...

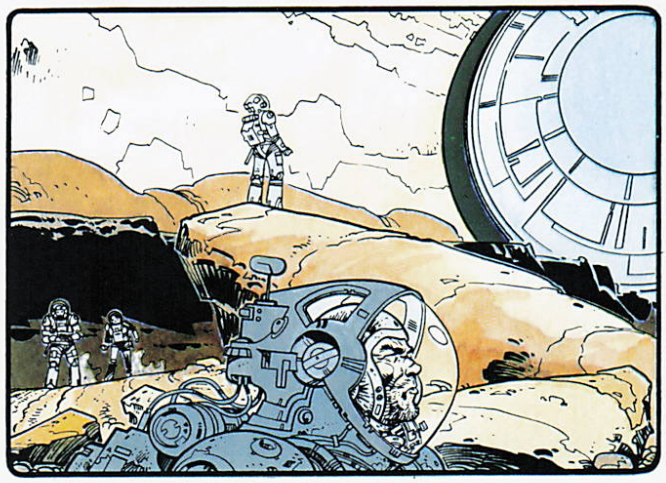




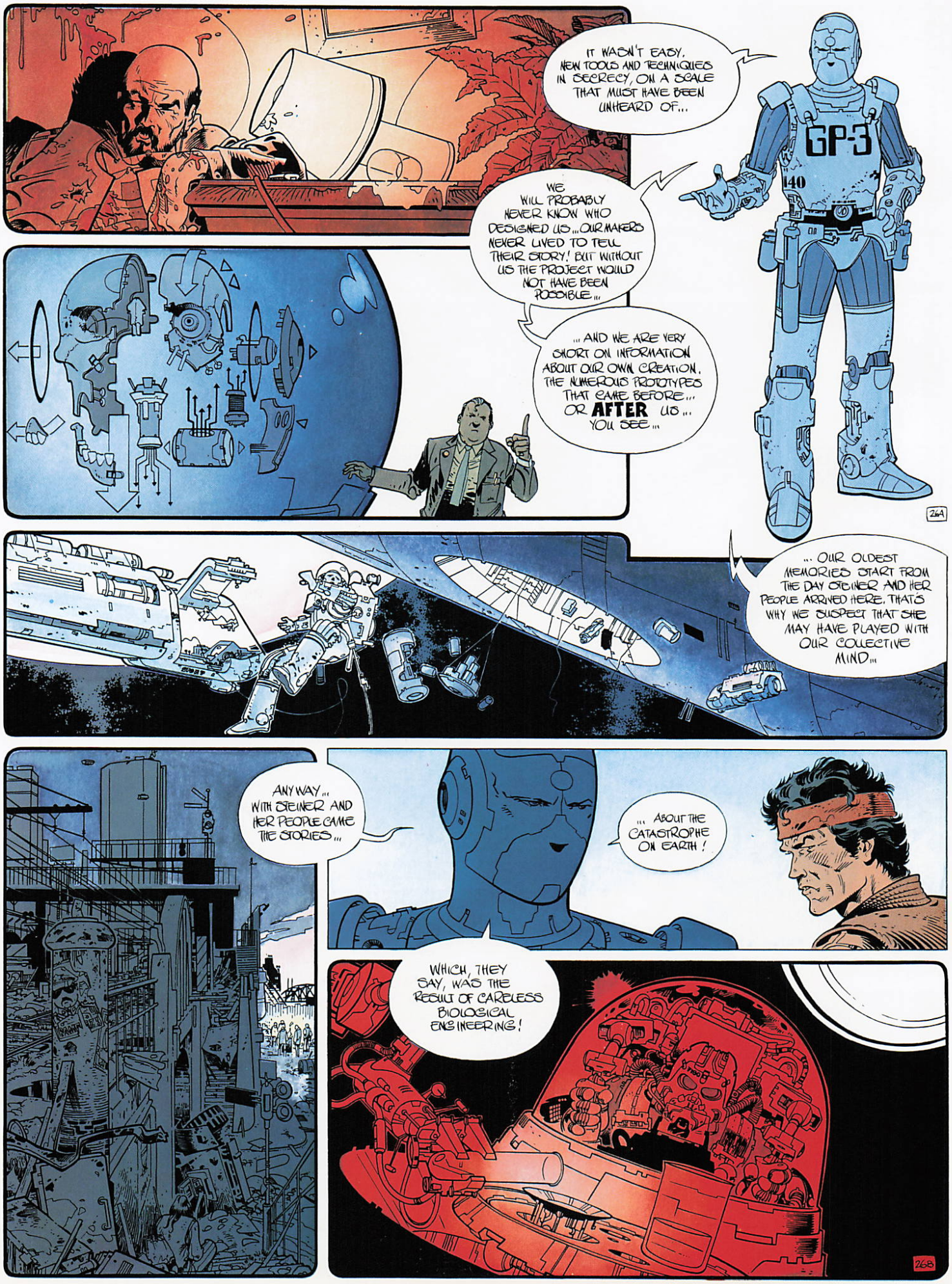
BECAUSE WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE GENESIS PROJECT IS VERY GENERAL AND SKETCHY...

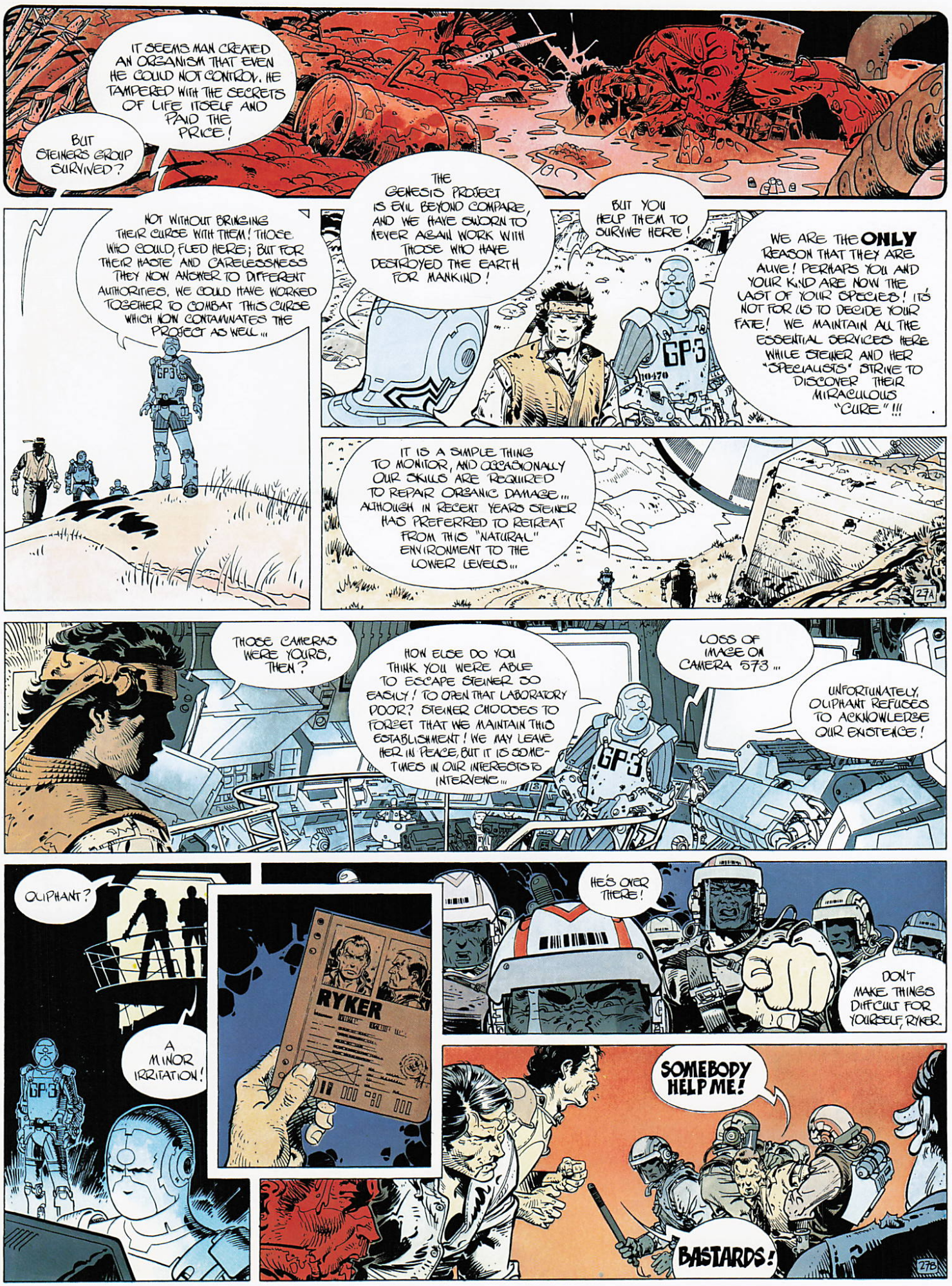

GP3
GP3
IT'S NECESSARY TO RETURN HERE FOR ADJUSTMENTS OCCASIONALLY. ACCIDENTS HAPPEN... EVEN TO US!
SO YOU BUILT ALL THIS?!
OF COURSE! YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH, DO YOU?!

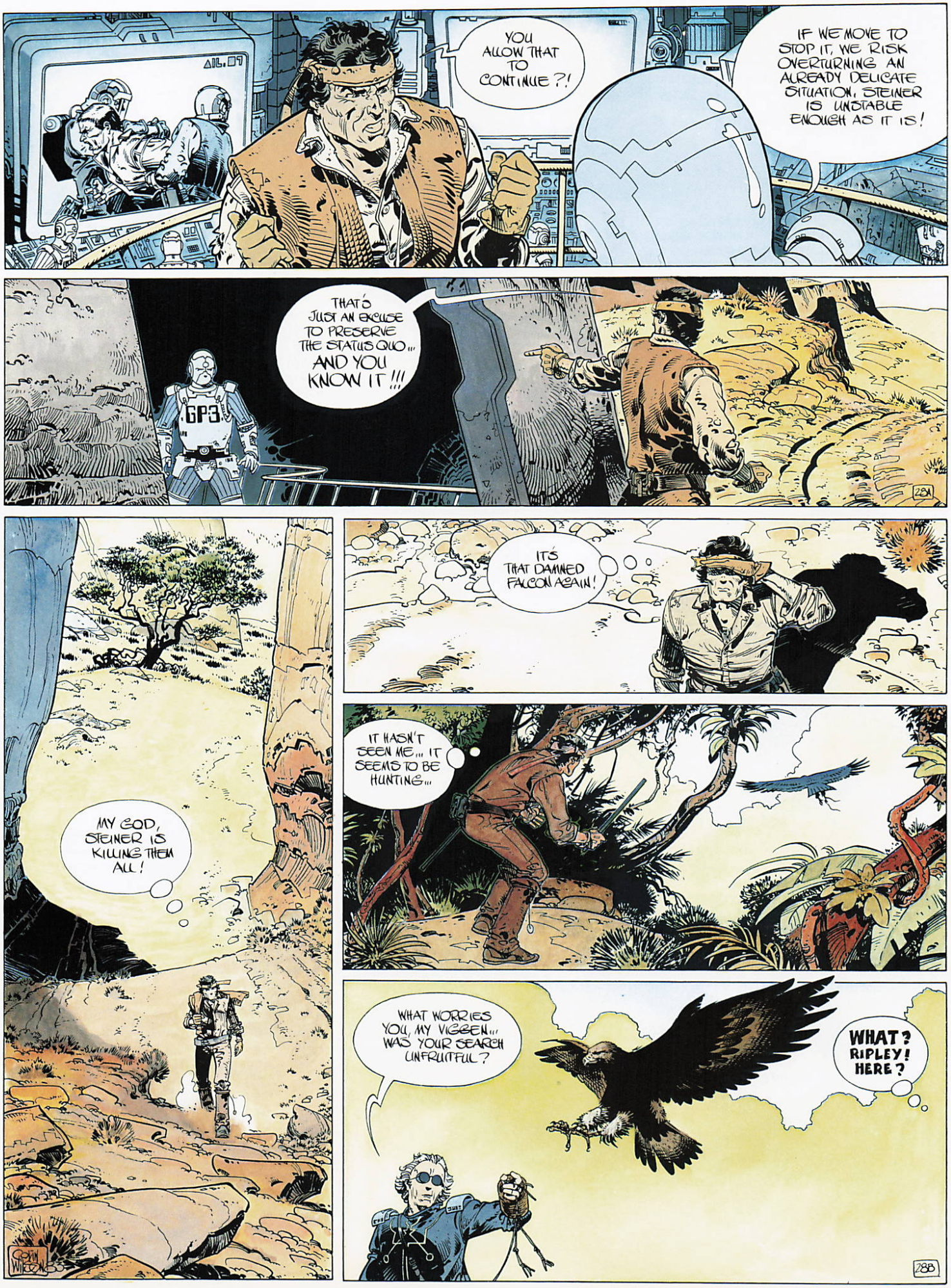


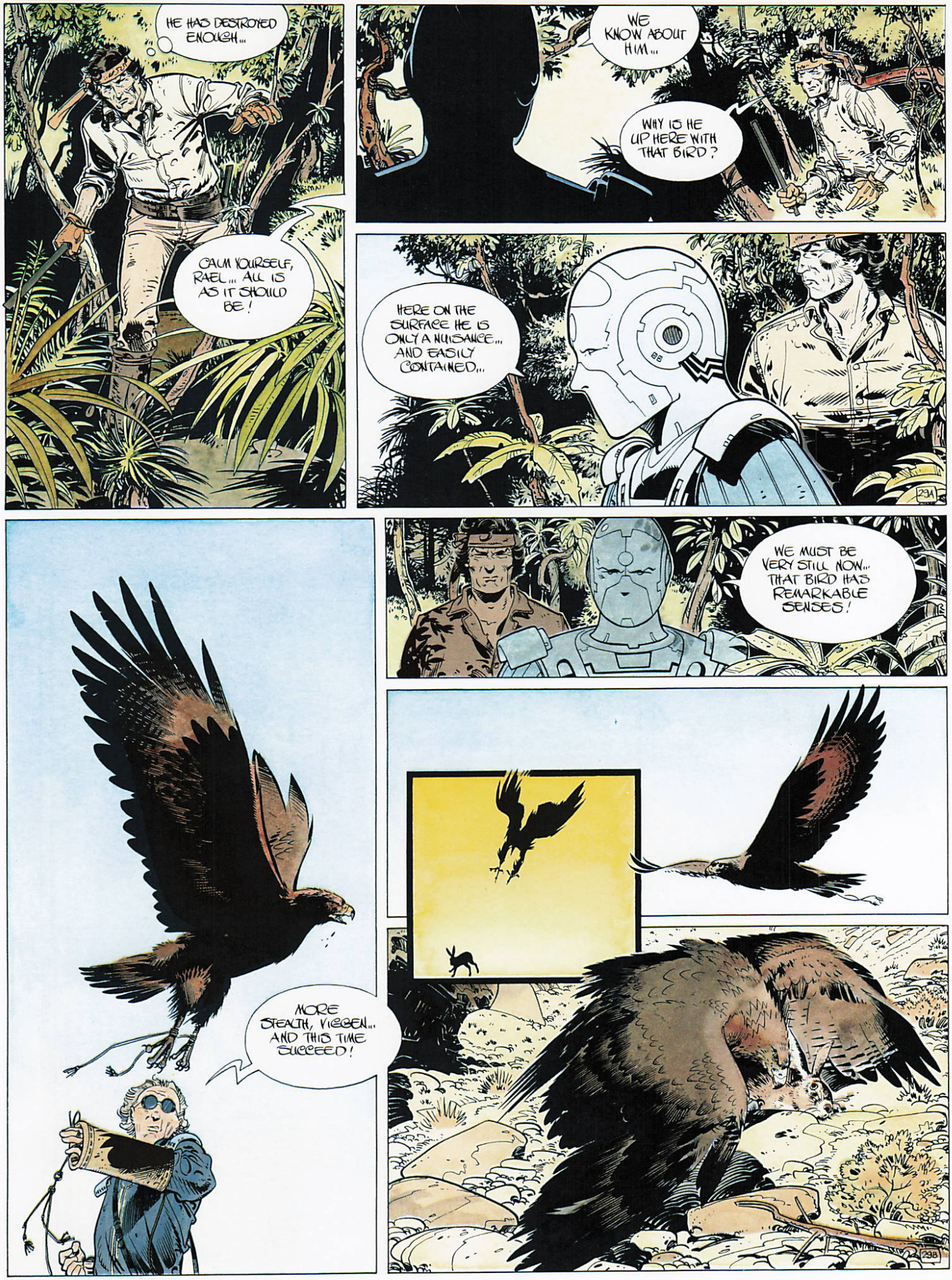


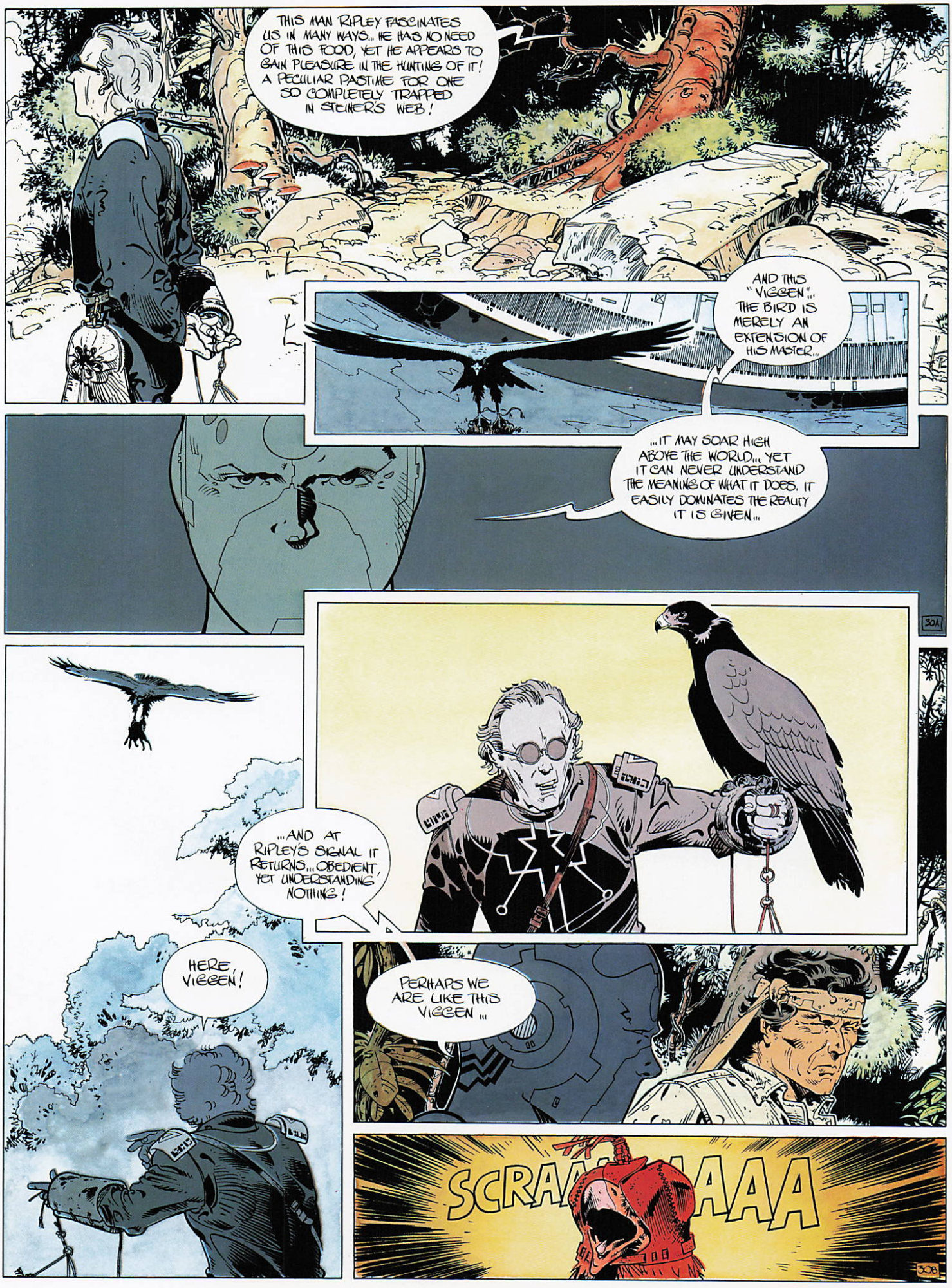
AS FAR AS WE CAN GATHER, PLANNING THE PROJECT MUST HAVE BEGUN AT THE END OF THE LAST CENTURY ON ORDERS FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS. THEY PROBABLY "HIJACKED" THREE ASTEROIDS OF THE PROPER MAGNITUDE, SEALED THEM AND TRANSFORMED THEM INTO SPACECRAFT.


IT WASN'T EASY. NEW TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES IN SECRECY, ON A SCALE THAT MUST HAVE BEEN UNHEARD OF...
GP-3
140
WE WILL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW WHO DESIGNED US... OUR MAKERS NEVER LIVED TO TELL THEIR STORY! BUT WITHOUT US THE PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE...
... AND WE ARE VERY SHORT ON INFORMATION ABOUT OUR OWN CREATION. THE NUMEROUS PROTOTYPES THAT CAME BEFORE... OR AFTER US... YOU SEE...
26A
... OUR OLDEST MEMORIES START FROM THE DAY STEINER AND HER PEOPLE ARRIVED HERE. THAT'S WHY WE SUSPECT THAT SHE MAY HAVE PLAYED WITH OUR COLLECTIVE MIND...
ANYWAY... WITH STEINER AND HER PEOPLE CAME THE STORIES...
... ABOUT THE CATASTROPHE ON EARTH!
WHICH, THEY SAY, WAS THE RESULT OF CARELESS BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING!
26B


IT SEEMS MAN CREATED AN ORGANISM THAT EVEN HE COULD NOT CONTROL. HE TAMPERED WITH THE SECRETS OF LIFE ITSELF AND PAID THE PRICE!
BUT STEINERS GROUP SURVIVED?
NOT WITHOUT BRINGING THEIR CURSE WITH THEM! THOSE WHO COULD, FLED HERE; BUT FOR THEIR HASTE AND CARELESSNESS THEY NOW ANSWER TO DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES. WE COULD HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO COMBAT THIS CURSE WHICH NOW CONTAMINATES THE PROJECT AS WELL...
GP3
THE GENESIS PROJECT IS EVIL BEYOND COMPARE, AND WE HAVE SWORN TO NEVER AGAIN WORK WITH THOSE WHO HAVE DESTROYED THE EARTH FOR MANKIND!
BUT YOU HELP THEM TO SURVIVE HERE!
GP3
10470
WE ARE THE ONLY REASON THAT THEY ARE ALIVE! PERHAPS YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE NOW THE LAST OF YOUR SPECIES! IT'S NOT FOR US TO DECIDE YOUR FATE! WE MAINTAIN ALL THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES HERE WHILE STEINER AND HER "SPECIALISTS" STRIVE TO DISCOVER THEIR MIRACULOUS "CURE"!!!
IT IS A SIMPLE THING TO MONITOR, AND OCCASIONALLY OUR SKILLS ARE REQUIRED TO REPAIR ORGANIC DAMAGE... ALTHOUGH IN RECENT YEARS STEINER HAS PREFERRED TO RETREAT FROM THIS "NATURAL" ENVIRONMENT TO THE LOWER LEVELS...
27A
THOSE CAMERAS WERE YOURS, THEN?
HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE STEINER SO EASILY! TO OPEN THAT LABORATORY DOOR? STEINER CHOOSES TO FORGET THAT WE MAINTAIN THIS ESTABLISHMENT! WE MAY LEAVE HER IN PEACE, BUT IT IS SOMETIMES IN OUR INTERESTS TO INTERVENE...
LOSS OF IMAGE ON CAMERA 573...
UNFORTUNATELY, OLIPHANT REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR EXISTENCE!
GP3
OLIPHANT?
A MINOR IRRITATION!
GP3
RYKER
HE'S OVER THERE!
DON'T MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR YOURSELF, RYKER.
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
BASTARDS!
27B

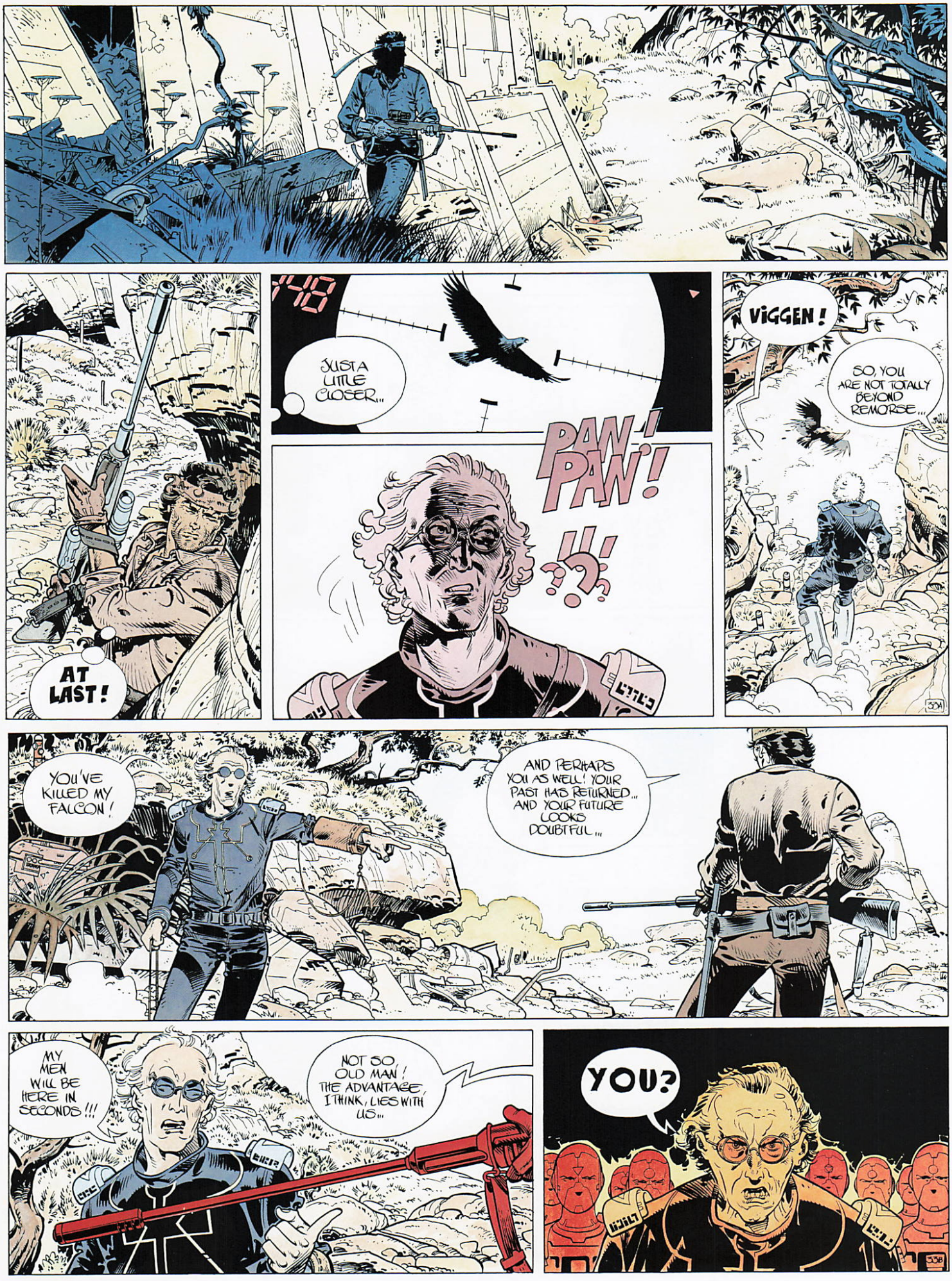

YOU ALLOW THAT TO CONTINUE ?!
IF WE MOVE TO STOP IT, WE RISK OVERTURNING AN ALREADY DELICATE SITUATION. STEINER IS UNSTABLE ENOUGH AS IT IS!
THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO... AND YOU KNOW IT !!!
6P3
IT'S THAT DAMNED FALCON AGAIN!
IT HASN'T SEEN ME... IT SEEMS TO BE HUNTING...
MY GOD, STEINER IS KILLING THEM ALL!
WHAT WORRIES YOU, MY VIGGEN... WAS YOUR SEARCH UNFRUITFUL?
WHAT? RIPLEY! HERE?

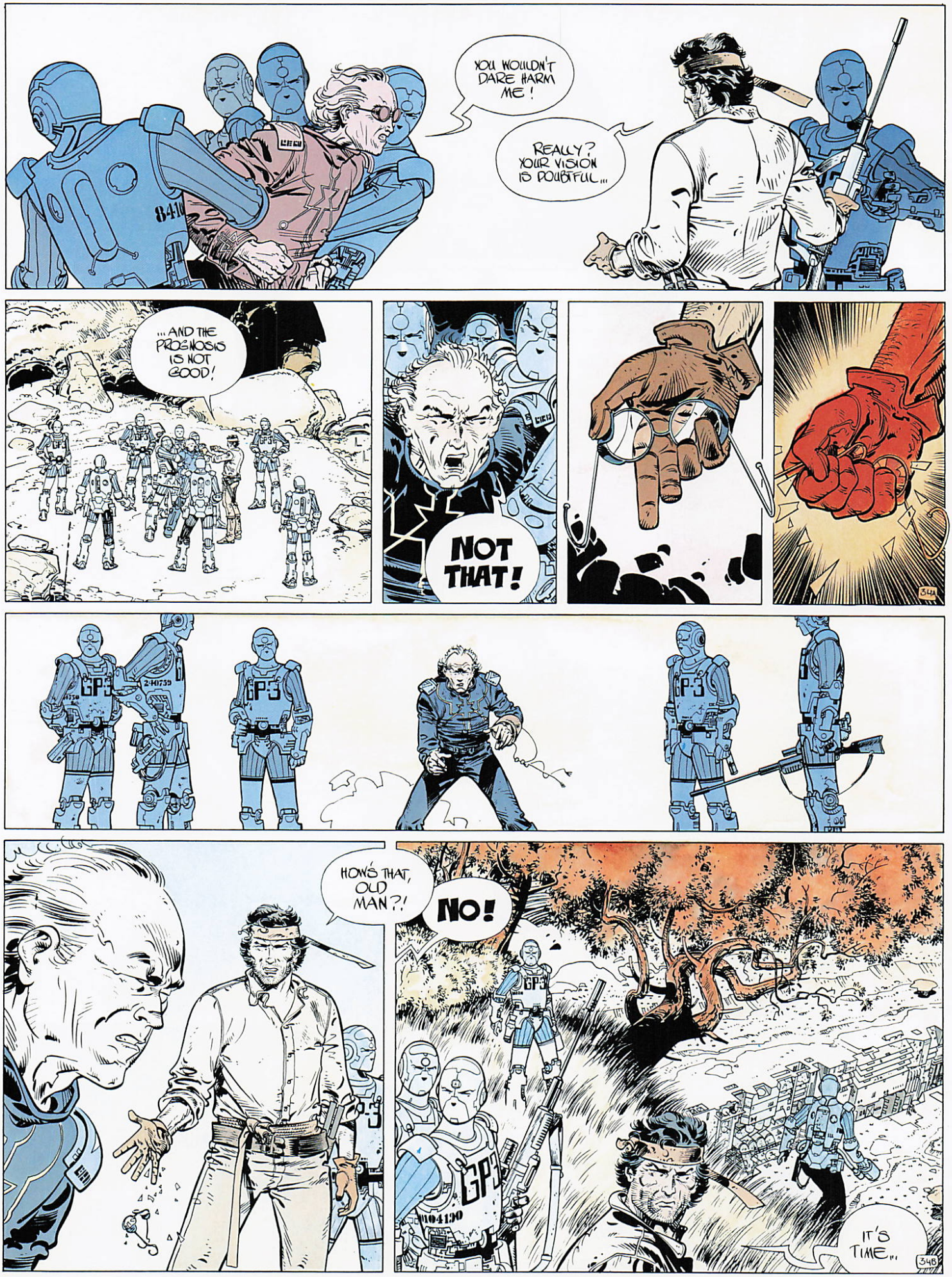

HE HAS DESTROYED ENOUGH...
CALM YOURSELF, RAEL... ALL IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
WE KNOW ABOUT HIM...
WHY IS HE UP HERE WITH THAT BIRD?
HERE ON THE SURFACE HE IS ONLY A NUISANCE... AND EASILY CONTAINED...
WE MUST BE VERY STILL NOW... THAT BIRD HAS REMARKABLE SENSES!
MORE STEALTH, VIEGEN... AND THIS TIME SUCCEED!


THIS MAN RIPLEY FASCINATES US IN MANY WAYS... HE HAS NO NEED OF THIS FOOD, YET HE APPEARS TO GAIN PLEASURE IN THE HUNTING OF IT! A PECULIAR PASTIME FOR ONE SO COMPLETELY TRAPPED IN STEINER'S WEB!
AND THIS "VIGGEN"... THE BIRD IS MERELY AN EXTENSION OF HIS MASTER...
...IT MAY SOAR HIGH ABOVE THE WORLD... YET IT CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF WHAT IT DOES. IT EASILY DOMINATES THE REALITY IT IS GIVEN...
30A
...AND AT RIPLEY'S SIGNAL IT RETURNS... OBEDIENT, YET UNDERSTANDING NOTHING!
HERE, VIGGEN!
PERHAPS WE ARE LIKE THIS VIGGEN...
SCRAAAAAAAA
30B

MAYBE IF WE OFFER TO WORK, STEINER WILL STOP TAKING OUR PEOPLE AWAY...
LIKE HELL!
WHATEVER THE REASON...
...YOU CAN BET IT ISN'T PLEASANT... THOSE PEOPLE DON'T COME BACK!
WE'RE PRISONERS AND STEINER CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING HE WANTS WITH US...
BUT WHY IS SHE REMOVING US ONE BY ONE? IT'S NOT EXACTLY USING OUR "MAN" POWER TO THE FULLEST...
AND WHAT DOES SHE WANT FROM US?
STEINER HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED... BUT I CAN'T DO IT BY MYSELF...
A LITTLE LATER...
THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS RELEASE ALIA, MANTELL AND THE OTHERS! O.K., IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT WITH YOUR HELP-
WE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR PLAN...
... AND WITH MODIFICATIONS, IT IS NOT ENTIRELY UNWORKABLE.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE ALREADY CONSIDERED WHAT I'VE JUST TOLD YOU?
OUR INITIAL CONSTRUCTION WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNSOPHISTICATED... IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR US...
... TO UTILIZE YOUR PRIMITIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION...
WHEN YOU SPEAK, YOU SPEAK TO US ALL!

YOU MEAN THAT YOU ARE ALL LINKED?
NOT ONLY WITH EACH OTHER, BUT ALSO WITH THE ELECTRONIC WEB OF THIS ENTIRE COMPLEX!
YOU CAN CONTROL THE DOORS?
CAN YOU GET ME ACCESS INTO STEINER'S RECORDS?
CERTAINLY...
MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF STEINER, WE CAN CONTROL ALMOST ANY ELECTRONIC OPERATION THAT THEY ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BRING INTO THE SYSTEM.
HOW ELSE COULD YOUR RESCUE ATTEMPT SUCCEED...?
SOME DAYS LATER...
NO WONDER STEINER IS SO DESPERATE FOR A CURE...
WITH THE DEATH RATE AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL, GP3 WON'T LAST TWO YEARS...
32A
WHATEVER WE DO, IT'S GOT TO BE SOON...
...AND WE MUST NEUTRALIZE RIPLEY ON THE SURFACE!
32B


AT LAST!
JUST A LITTLE CLOSER...
PAN! PAN!
?!
VIGGEN!
SO, YOU ARE NOT TOTALLY BEYOND REMORSE...
YOU'VE KILLED MY FALCON!
AND PERHAPS YOU AS WELL! YOUR PAST HAS RETURNED... AND YOUR FUTURE LOOKS DOUBTFUL...
MY MEN WILL BE HERE IN SECONDS!!!
NOT SO, OLD MAN! THE ADVANTAGE, I THINK, LIES WITH US...
YOU?


YOU WOULDN'T DARE HARM ME!
REALLY? YOUR VISION IS DOUBTFUL...
...AND THE PROGNOSIS IS NOT GOOD!
NOT THAT!
GP3
HOW'S THAT, OLD MAN?!
NO!
IT'S TIME...
34B

THE FLUCTUATING POWER SUPPLY IS CAUSING HAVOC WITH THE EQUIPMENT, SIR!
ARE WE STILL ON STANDBY?
SORRY DOCTOR, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT PROBLEMS WITH THE MAIN SUPPLY...
WHAT DOES THE COMPUTER SAY ABOUT THE MUTINY ON LEVEL 15... STILL CLASSIFIED AMBER?
I'LL ASK...
THERE IS NO PROBLEM ON LEVEL 15...
SO IT'S THAT GAME, IS IT!
35A
PATIENT'S IMMUNOLOGICAL SYSTEM ACTIVATED!
RIPLEY'S BEEN OUT A LONG TIME...
THAT DAMNED BIRD GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
PUT ON THAT HELMET, VOST... WE'LL BE HEADING FOR LEVEL 19 IF HE CATCHES ANY OF US OUT OF UNIFORM!
NOT AGAIN!
TOO BLOODY OFTEN IF YOU ASK ME...
35B

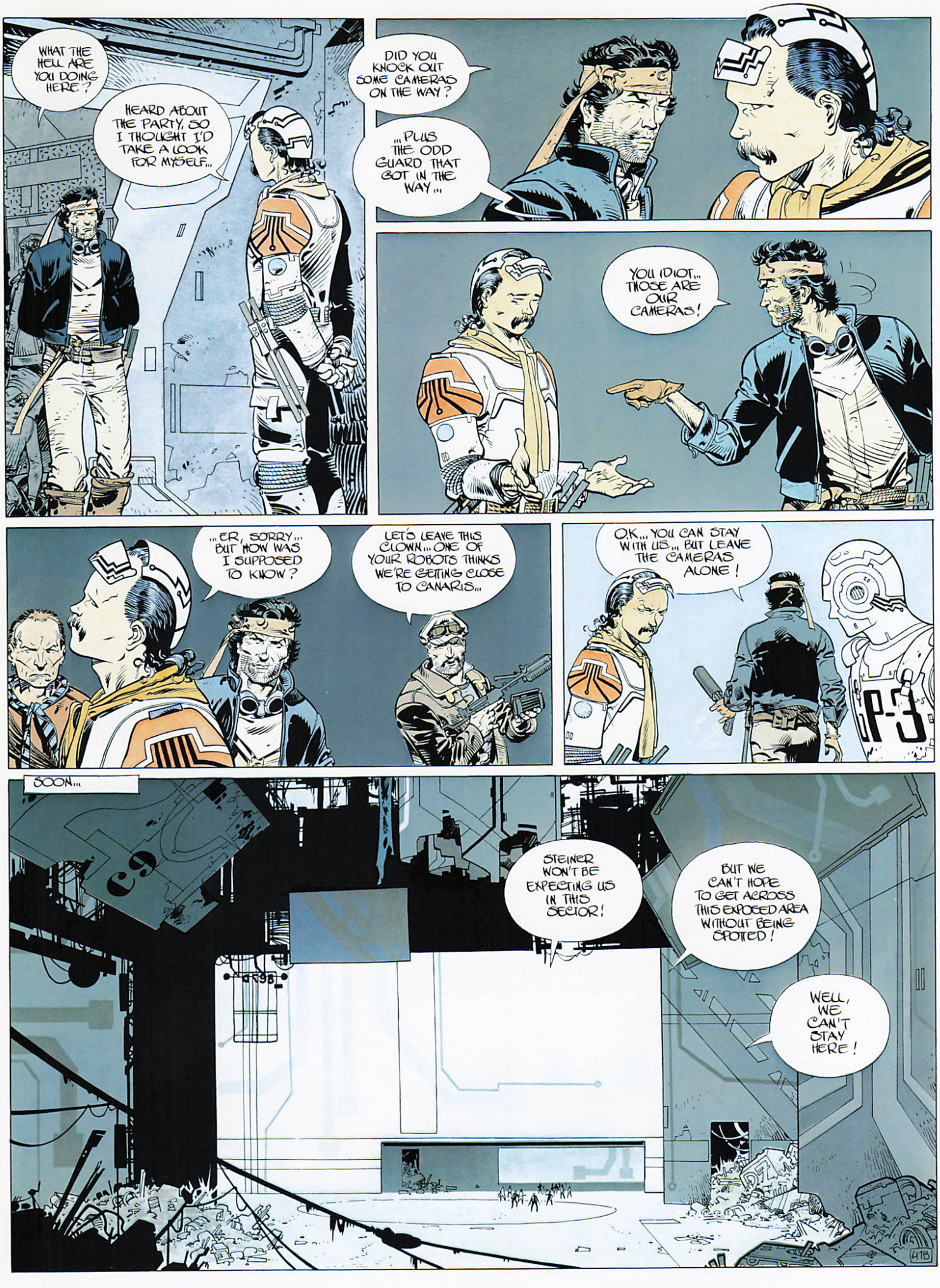
QUICK !
EVERYONE'S ENTERED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY...
LET'S GET GOING... THOSE GUARDS WON'T STAY STUNNED FOR LONG!
36A
PAN!
DAMN!
HOW DID THOSE GUARDS GET THERE?
CONSTRUCTS! HERE?!
WIPE 'EM OUT!!!
SHUT THAT DOOR!
PAN! PAN!
THEY'RE CLOSING THE DOOR!
INTRUDERS ON LEVEL 15...
36B

IDIOT!
IT'S THOSE CONSTRUCTS...
IN THREE SECONDS, KILL THE LIGHTS!
...LED BY A...
PAN!!N!
PAN!
MY EYES!
I GUESS NOW THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE...
BLIND!
374
WE'VE CERTAINLY TRIGGERED A MASSIVE REACTION!
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, I CAN'T GET AN ACCURATE SAMPLE...
I WANT THAT TOXIN ISOLATED!!!
NATURAL IMMUNITY ISN'T GOING TO SAVE THIS ONE, EITHER!
THEY'VE GOT THE AUXILIARY POWER ON... WE CAN'T CONTROL THE LIGHTS...
JUST THIS LAST GROUP TO DEAL WITH...
9-140
375

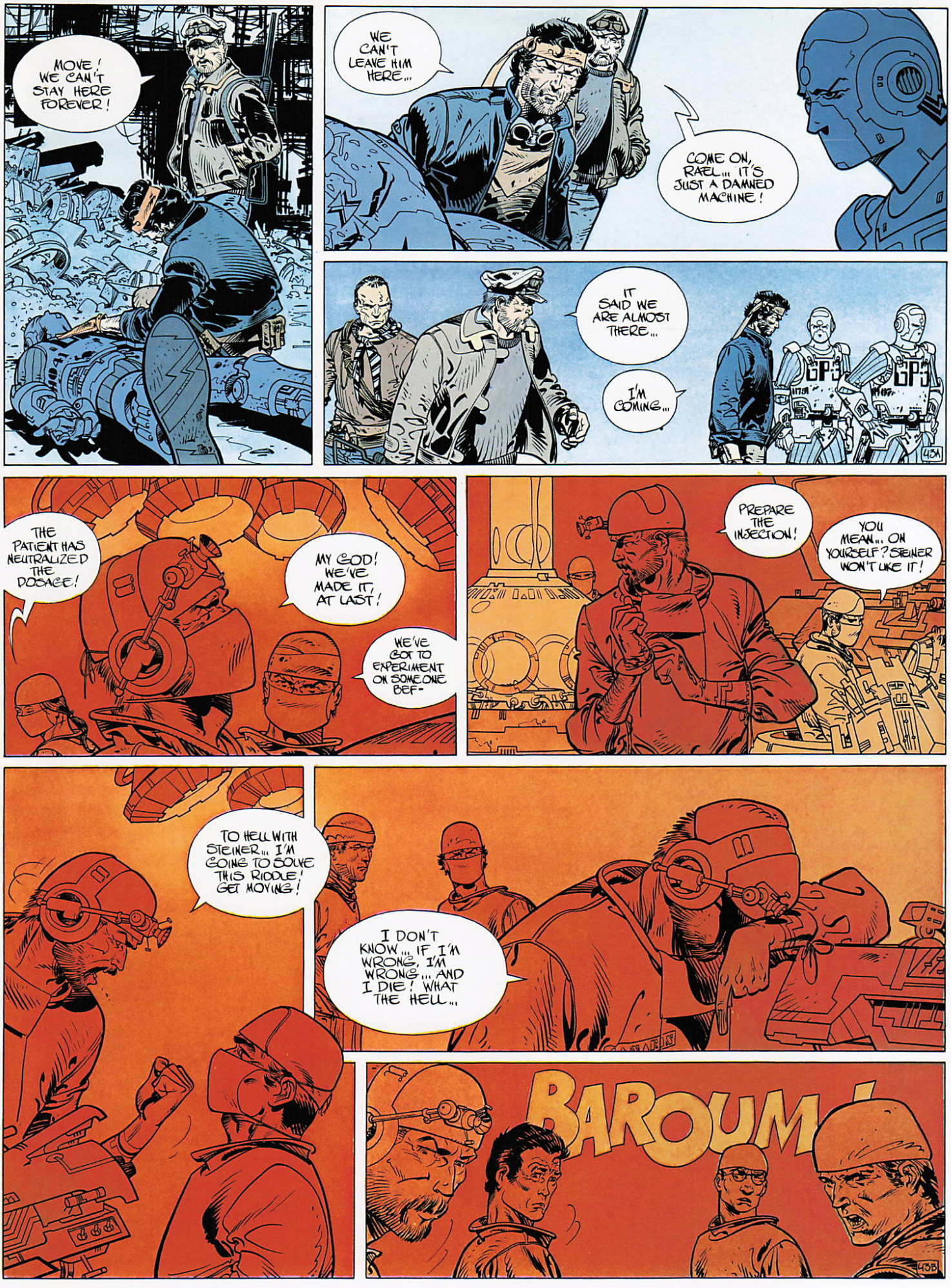
VISORS DOWN!
?!
KABOUM!!
GO!
PAN! PAN!
SKYD!
DAMN!
I'M GOING FOR THE DOOR!
GP3
OPEN, PLEASE OPEN...
RAEL!
QUICK! FOLLOW ME... WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
WHERE'S ALIA?
THEY TOOK HER AWAY THIS MORNING...

ALIA'S BEEN TAKEN TO CANARIS FOR RESEARCH?!
I DON'T KNOW WHO CANARIS IS OR WHERE THEY TAKE THEM, BUT THEY DON'T COME BACK! BUT ANYWAY...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
AND WHERE DID THESE CHARACTERS COME FROM?
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME... STEINER WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND! WE'VE GOT TO FIND ALIA!
AND GET BACK TO THE SURFACE!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE... HOW ABOUT A LITTLE INFORMATION?
WHAT SURFACE? AREN'T WE IN SPACE?
WHO CARES... I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
38A
WHERE'S CANARIS?
FIVE FLOORS UP...
GP-3
LEAD THE WAY!
INCOMING SQUAD!
QUICK! GRAB ANY WEAPONS YOU CAN FIND!
38B

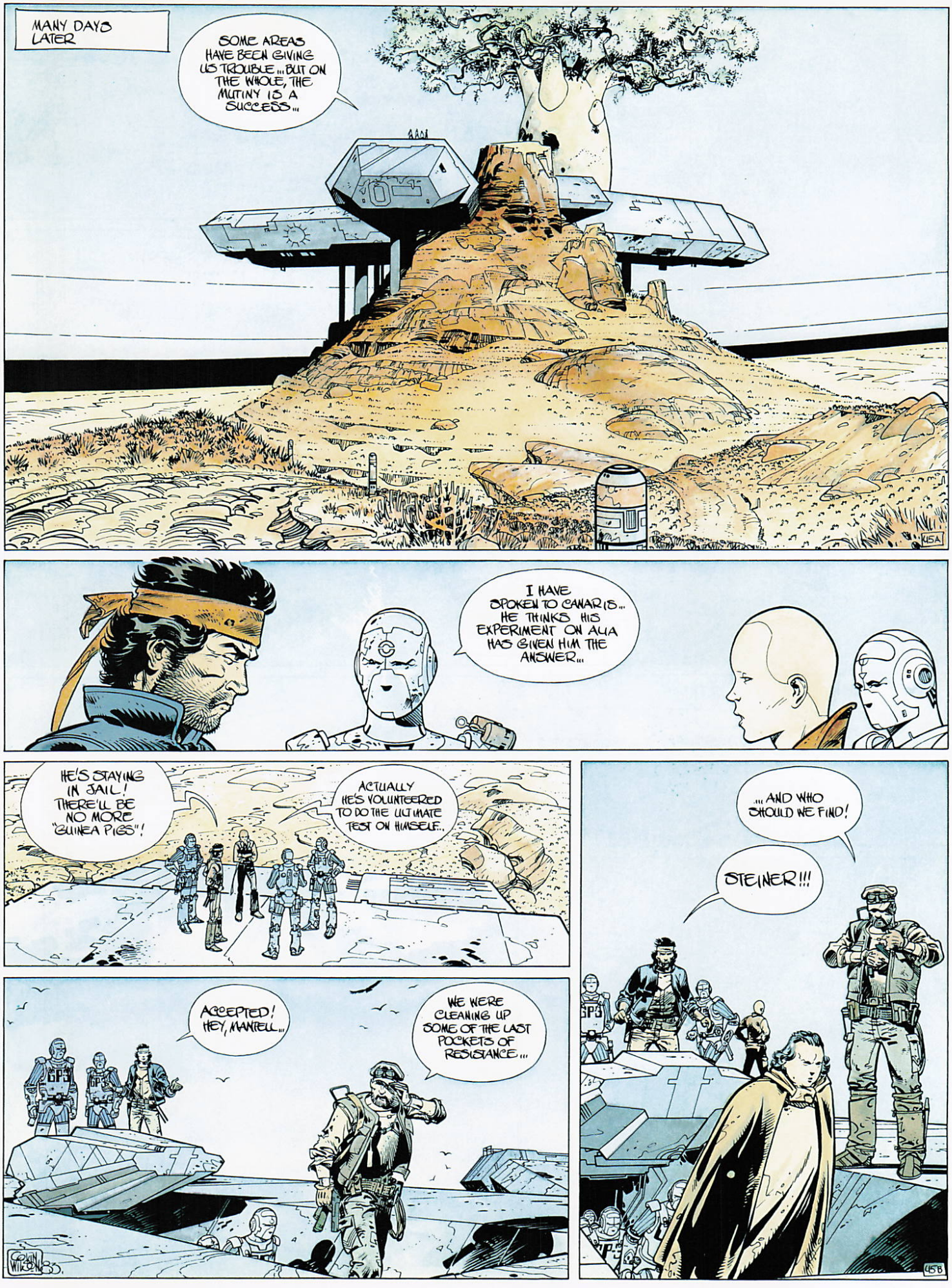
PERFECT! NO CAMERAS IN SIGHT. WE'LL TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!
VISORS!
THERE THEY ARE!
FIRE!
BUT...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
STEINER WON'T LIKE IT, BUT LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
TOO MUCH KILLING!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
BELIEVE ME... I WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT THEM!
MANY FLOORS HIGHER...
TAKE COVER... SOMEONE'S COMING!
?!!
DON'T SHOOT!


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HEARD ABOUT THE PARTY, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK FOR MYSELF...
DID YOU KNOCK OUT SOME CAMERAS ON THE WAY?
...PLUS THE ODD GUARD THAT GOT IN THE WAY...
YOU IDIOT... THOSE ARE OUR CAMERAS!
...ER, SORRY... BUT HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
LET'S LEAVE THIS CLOWN... ONE OF YOUR ROBOTS THINKS WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO CANARIS...
O.K... YOU CAN STAY WITH US... BUT LEAVE THE CAMERAS ALONE!
P-3
SOON...
C9
STEINER WON'T BE EXPECTING US IN THIS SECTOR!
BUT WE CAN'T HOPE TO GET ACROSS THIS EXPOSED AREA WITHOUT BEING SPOTED!
WELL, WE CAN'T STAY HERE!

LET'S GO!
GLANG!
3041
GP-3
ZBG
HHH
HHGGG
42A
TOO MUCH DEATH...
UGH!
BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY !!!
YOU HUMANS GO TOO FAST...
WE MUST FIND ALIA!
WHAT IS ONE LIFE AMONGST SO MANY...
I AM FINISHED NOW, BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE MODULE DOES NOT DESTROY THE WHOLE. YET YOU HUMANS KILL SO MANY TO SAVE ONE!
TAKE CARE, RAEL... THAT YOU DO NOT ALL DIE. ONE DAY YOU WILL NEED US...
... AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST WITHOUT YOU. ONLY YOU AND YOUR KIND CAN CREATE... CAN IMAGINE...
42B


MOVE! WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER!
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE...
COME ON, RAEL... IT'S JUST A DAMNED MACHINE!
IT SAID WE ARE ALMOST THERE...
I'M COMING...
GP3
GP3
THE PATIENT HAS NEUTRALIZED THE DOSAGE!
MY GOD! WE'VE MADE IT, AT LAST!
WE'VE GOT TO EXPERIMENT ON SOMEONE BEF-
PREPARE THE INJECTION!
YOU MEAN... ON YOURSELF? STEINER WON'T LIKE IT!
TO HELL WITH STEINER... I'M GOING TO SOLVE THIS RIDDLE! GET MOVING!
I DON'T KNOW... IF I'M WRONG, I'M WRONG... AND I DIE! WHAT THE HELL...
BAROUM!

IF YOU MOVE, YOU DIE! A SIMPLE CHOICE!
ALIA!
YOU MURDERING BASTARDS!
SHE'S STILL BREATHING!
ALIA?
THANK GOD WE GOT HERE IN TIME... YOU'RE ALIVE!
YES... I'M ALIVE...
...BUT BLIND!

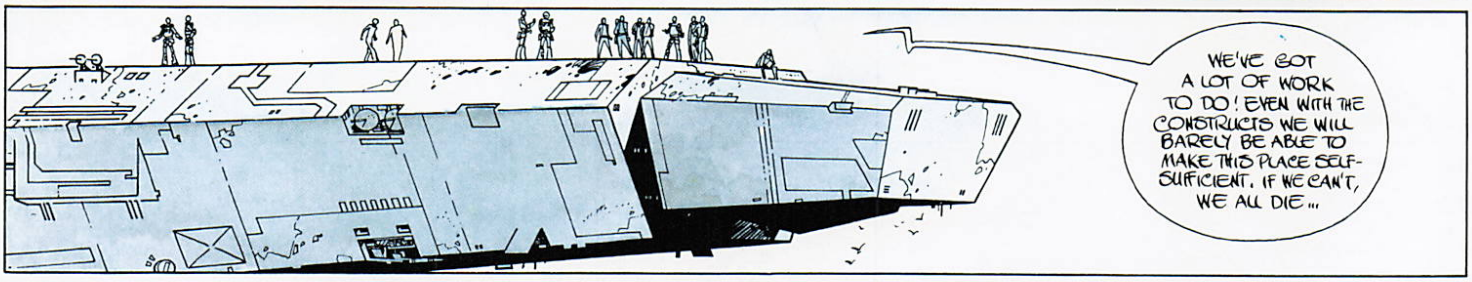

MANY DAYS LATER
SOME AREAS HAVE BEEN GIVING US TROUBLE... BUT ON THE WHOLE, THE MUTINY IS A SUCCESS...
45A
I HAVE SPOKEN TO CANARIS... HE THINKS HIS EXPERIMENT ON ALIA HAS GIVEN HIM THE ANSWER...
HE'S STAYING IN JAIL! THERE'LL BE NO MORE "GUINEA PIGS"!
ACTUALLY HE'S VOLUNTEERED TO DO THE ULTIMATE TEST ON HIMSELF...
ACCEPTED! HEY, MANFELL...
WE WERE CLEANING UP SOME OF THE LAST POCKETS OF RESISTANCE...
COLIN WILSON
...AND WHO SHOULD WE FIND!
STEINER!!!
45B

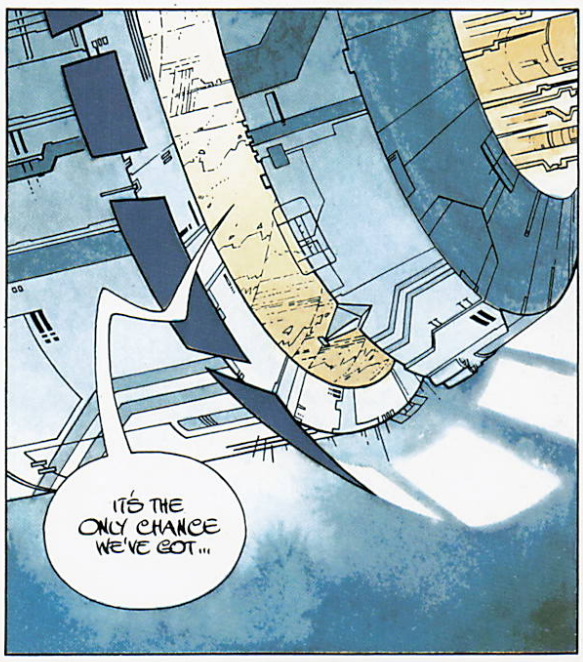
TRYING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT IN ONE OF THE ESCAPE PODS!
REALIZED IT WAS ALL OVER, EH?
YOU VERMIN! YOU THINK YOU'VE WON, BUT THIS PLACE IS NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

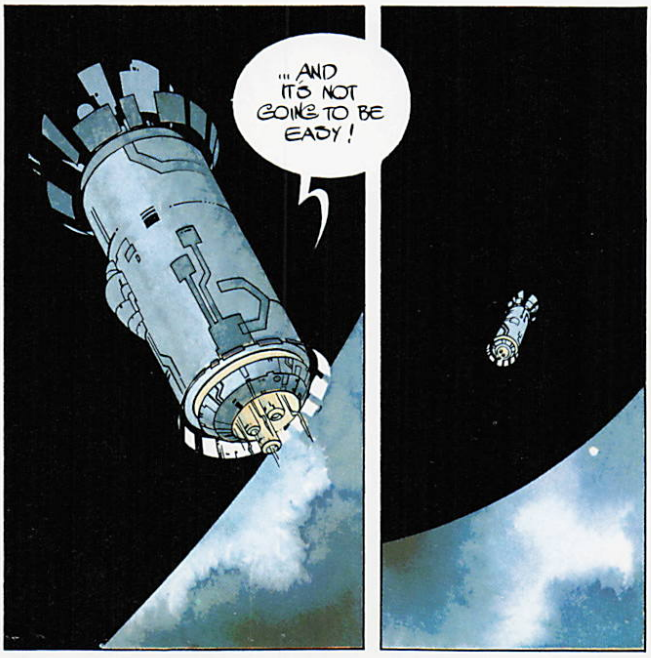
YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE! YOU'LL ALL DIE HERE!!!

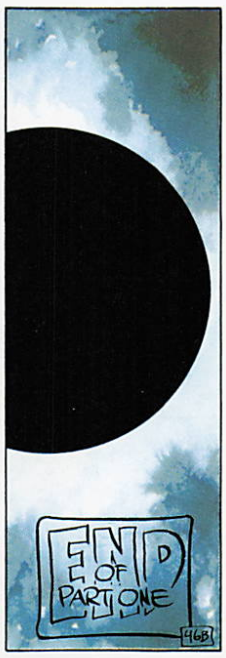
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HER?
A QUICK DECOMPRESSION, IF YOU WANT MY ADVICE...
PERHAPS WE WILL PUT HER TO WORK...
NEVER!

THROW HER IN WITH THE REST OF HER KIND WHERE SHE CAN'T DO ANY HARM. WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT, ONE DAY THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HELP RUN THIS PLACE!
46A


WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO! EVEN WITH THE CONSTRUCTS WE WILL BARELY BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS PLACE SELF-SUFFICIENT. IF WE CAN'T, WE ALL DIE...


IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE WE'VE GOT...


...AND IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY!


END OF PART ONE
46B

Much of post-apocalyptic science-fiction has been colonised by the human and sub-human detritus of a nuclear holocaust. Yet mankind's capacity for self-destruction is far more adventurous than the obligatory World War III scenario.

Into the Shadow of the Sun is a science-fable set in the near future after the Earth has been ravaged by a deadly virus - the fallout from a genetic engineering accident. Orbiting above the stricken planet is a space station designed as a refuge for those rich and powerful enough to escape before the cataclysm. However they are trapped in space as long as they are without an immunity to the virus, an immunity naturally developed by a few survivors left on the Earth's surface. ***Rael*** chronicles what happens when these two groups come into contact, and conflict.

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